Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the proposed relocation of all adult businesses to a portion of Middle Road?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Olympic Switch

One little girl had the looks. The other had the voice.

ASIA...Page 15

Blues Prodigy

After three years and countless hours of practicing, 8-year-old Tallan "T-Man" Tallan is a blues guitar prodigy.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Expelled priest in NY is AWOL from CK diocese. **PAGE 3**

Judge says public defender misled the court. **PAGE 6**

Santos' 2 companies opened in sync with alleged scheme

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Tax records show the opening of two businesses owned by Commerce Secretary James Santos and his wife coincided closely with the timeline of what federal authorities say was a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

RELATED NEWS

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- Reyes says resignation is up to Villagomez. **PAGE 5**
- Ada is named acting Commerce chief. **PAGE 6**

The indictment says Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, then CUC's director, and James Santos initiated a plan in February 1998 for CUC to purchase thousands of gallons of Rydlyme, a de-scaling

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BUS STOP CLEANUP JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Inmates from the Department of Corrections help repaint a bus stop near the 99 Cents on Middle Road yesterday. DOC will repaint and clean 42 bus stops before the school year starts. First lady Josie Fitial initiated the beautification project in collaboration with DOC and Department of Public Works.

Saipan lawmakers pass $4.8M funding bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Except for one, Saipan lawmakers voted yesterday to pass a bill that would allocate $4.8 million collected from poker fees in fiscal year 2009 to several programs and projects.

Rep. Tina M. Sablan, the lone lawmaker who opposed the passage, said she is very disappointed with the legislators' action.

Sablan

"We doubled the money for the Little League and for the fishing derby with no justification whatsoever! These are pet projects and they're nice in times of plenty. But these are not times of plenty!" Sablan pointed out.

She said lawmakers should be given the opportunity to review the bill and to comment on the expenditures.

"We had less than a morning to review

See SAIPAN on Page 4

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

House Local Bill 16-10 sets aside $4.75 million in revenues generated from the poker fees in FY 2009 for the following programs and projects:

- $3 million for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance;
- $100,000 for the SHEFA operations;
- $45,000 for the 2009 Liberation Day activities;

See FUNDING on Page 4

CPA emergency extended—again

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Fitial

Gov. Benigno Fitial in an executive order issued Wednesday extended for a third time the state of emergency for the Commonwealth Ports Authority, pointing to the lack of Senate-confirmed members for the agency's board.

The 30-day extension comes after Frank Camacho last week declined the governor's nomination to the board for undisclosed reasons.

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Local

NMI, Pacific islands get $290K USDA grants

The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and Hawaii will benefit from the newly approved $290,260 grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, mainly for conservation innovation projects.

The Honolulu-based Natural Resources Conservation Service announced this week the awarding of Conservation Innovation Grants intended for five projects designed to develop and refine cutting-edge technologies and approaches that can help producers maintain viable agricultural operations.

The USDA said these CIGs will provide an excellent opportunity to adapt new mainland or foreign country conservation tools to island agriculture and conditions.

Lawrence Yamamoto, director of the Pacific Islands Area for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, said this program has shown positive results thus far and USDA is hoping to use this program even more in the future.

"CIG funds pilot projects and conservation field trials that can last from one to three years," USDA said.

The USDA, however, explained that grants for approved projects cannot exceed 50 percent of the total project cost and the federal contribution for a single project cannot exceed $75,000.

"Applicants from Hawaii, Guam, and the Common Wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requested CIG grants totaling about $656,736. Projects must involve EQIP-eligible producers," USDA noted. EQIP is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

This fiscal year's grantees include one resource conservation and development councils and three colleges and universities.

The selected projects will address multiple resource concerns including water quality, water quantity and soil quality. These projects include:

■ Comparative effectiveness of an integrated pest management system for managing the insect pests on cabbage in Guam; Rehabilitating ex-urea and ex-nematicide addicts: demonstrating how a green manure/solarization system can be used to improve soil health while maintaining pineapple productivity;

■ Subirrigation as an innovative new technology to reduce water consumption for native plant nursery production;

■ Demonstration of vetiver grass as a commercial crop for conservation use; and

■ Demonstration of Botanical Pesticides in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The USDA said information from these projects will hopefully lead to new technologies and practices that producers and farmers can adapt to their operation that will help sustain or improve agriculture while conserving our natural resources. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Reprogramming of lapsed funds from street naming project OK'd

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation approved yesterday a bill that proposes to reallocate $165,844 in lapsed funds from the street naming project to other programs and projects.

"I feel very good [about the bill's passage]," said Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, who said that important projects would be taken cared of under this appropriation bill.

House Local Bill 16-16 was introduced by Rep. Justo S. Quitugua. The vote was 10-6 in favor of the bill's passage.

The bill provides the following:

■ $15,000 to the Northern Islands Field Trip under the expenditure authority of the Northern Islands Mayor;

■ $5,600 for payment of the Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission TV Talk Show at Marianas Cable Vision covering February 2008 through May 2008;

■ $20,000 for the construction of covered walkways at Oleai Elementary School;

■ $19,000 matching funds for construction of the San Vicente Head Start classroom;

■ $21,244 for the Northern Islands Museum;

■ $20,000 for the procurement of 10 Tanita Scales for the Public School System;

■ $15,000 to upgrade the water line system in Tanapag;

■ $25,000 for public purpose facility improvements, including paving of the parking area at Pakpak Beach Park;

■ $5,000 to renovate the Manhoben Center in Chalan Kanoa;

■ $15,000 for the Tetset Konferensian Chamorro; and

■ $5,000 for the Aghurub celebration.

Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that among the much needed projects are classroom for San Vicente Head Start and the Tanita Scales for PSS.

"There's also some with regards to waterworks projects that are being conducted…to assist the flow of the water in Tanapag. And also to renovate some public buildings, among other things," Camacho said.

He said the lapsed funds pertain to money that is not being used and is dormant.

"Instead of letting those account linger we take them and reprogram them and make use of those," Camacho explained.

He said at issue is the lapsed funds from the road naming project. "Those money were not used. It's been sitting there for almost six years now," Camacho said.

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PRAYER OFFERING
Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, together with visiting Japanese businessmen and women, solemnly offer prayers as a tribute to all World War II victims during a ceremony organized by Mariana Blue Corp. at the Japanese Peace Memorial near the Last Command Post in Marpi.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Expelled priest in NY is AWOL from CK diocese

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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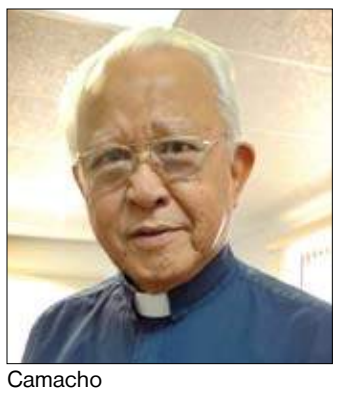
REPORTER

A controversial priest who was expelled from a diocese in New York is "technically" on AWOL (absence without leave) from the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, according to Bishop Thomas Camacho.

In an interview yesterday at his office in Mt. Carmel Church,



Camacho

Camacho confirmed that he ordained Fr. Matthew Blockley in 1996. He said the priest left Saipan sometime in 2000 and never came back.

Blockley, an Englishman, was recently expelled by the Diocese of Rockville Centre and was ordered by Bishop William Murphy to immediately cease presenting himself as a priest on Long Island.

Saipan Tribune learned about this through an e-mail from *Newsday* reporter Bart Jones, who quoted a Rockville Centre spokesman as saying that Blockley had left New York for the CNMI.

Camacho said, though, that Blockley is not here.

Jones reported that Blockley was brought to New York by Msgr. James Lisante, a Fox news commentator, without the knowledge of the diocese there and that Camacho had suspended him because he did not respond to an instruction that he should return to his home diocese.

Jones also reported that some parishioners at the Our Lady of Lourdes in Massapequa Park were angered by some of Blockley's actions that included removing the statue of the Our Lady of Fatima from the altar.

Lisante, who became the parish pastor there in June and brought with him Blockley, called the protests an overreaction, adding that it was another priest who removed the statue.

Camacho was saddened by these issues but said he will continue to pray for Blockley because "he is still my responsibility."

The Bishop recalled that Blockley stayed on Saipan about three years prior to his application to become a priest.

He said Blockley went to the Beda College in Rome, which is exclusively for English seminarians.

He also said Blockley went to the Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines about two years ago to take up Business Administration.

The Bishop said he wrote letters to Blockley but has never heard of his whereabouts since then.

FBI thanks DPS detective for help in Rydlyme-gate

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

A leading federal agent in the investigation of the alleged scheme involving Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez and three others to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said this week that a local Department of Public Safety detective, Jesse L. Dubrall, was instrumental in the case and commended his service.

An armed forces reservist recently called up for duty, Dubrall is now in training in California ahead of a likely deployment to Iraq, several sources said.

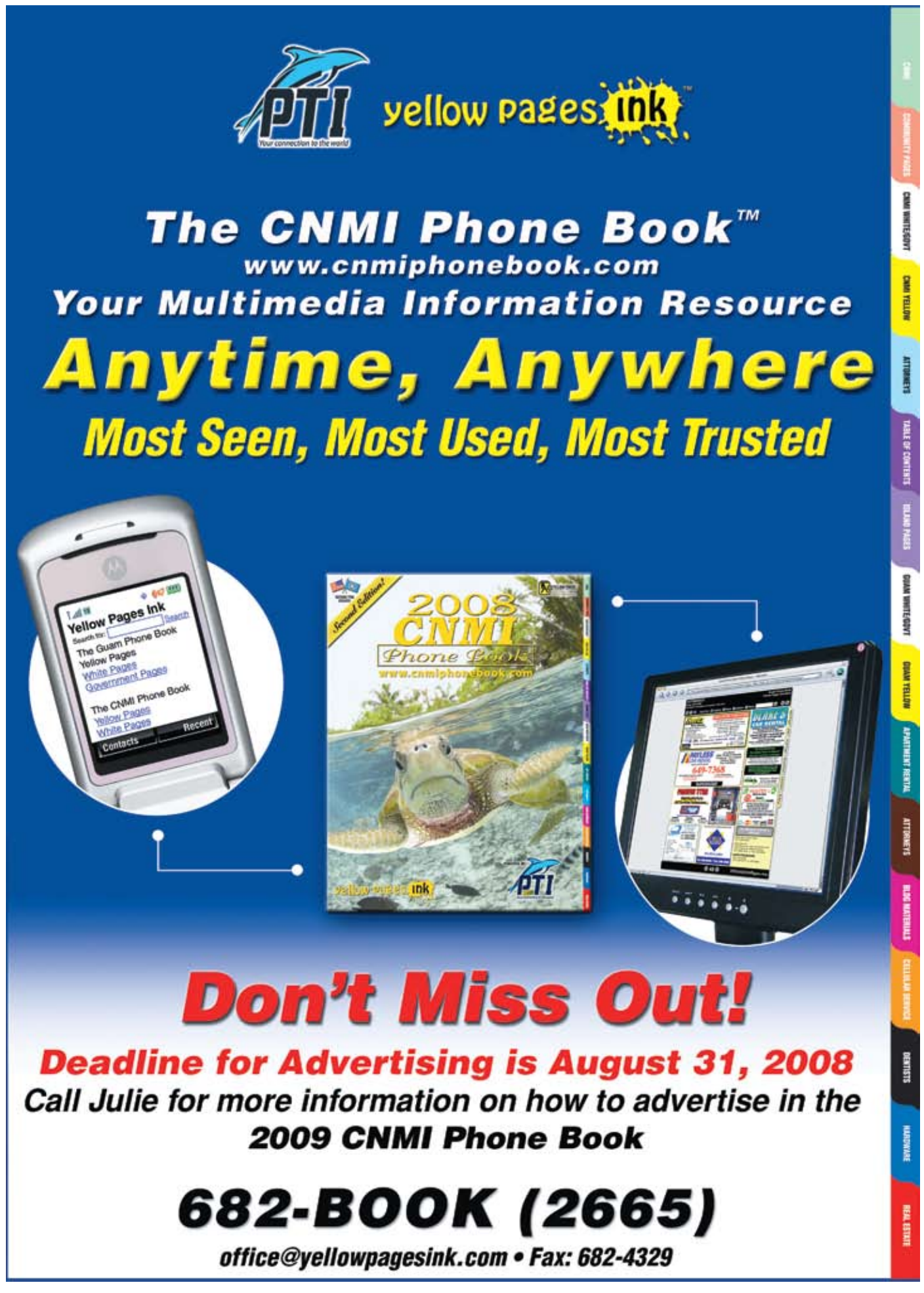
Dubrall worked closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and local authorities in a special white collar crime task force to help build the case against Villagomez and his three alleged co-conspirators in the months prior to his deployment, according to FBI agent Dana McMahon.

On Monday, after the defendants made their first appearance in federal court, McMahon thanked Dubrall for his assistance.

"There were a lot of local aspects to this case that we needed help on and Jesse was always right there for us," McMahon said. "He was really great. I'd like to thank him and DPS."

Dubrall's record as a DPS officer includes involvement in several high-profile cases, according to prior news reports, such the 2007 arrest of five CUC employees on corruption charges and the capture of two men charged with robbing poker arcades that same year.

"He's a great guy, a seasoned and experienced investigator," former DPS commissioner Claudio Norita said.



DUE TO MANY THREATS OF ROAD CLOSURES

List of landowners awaiting compensation sought

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz wants to know the names of those who are awaiting compensation from the CNMI government for the taking of their lands.

Dela Cruz has asked Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario to provide him the list of individuals, together with the size of the lot, location of property, appraised amount, purpose of taking, and time of taking.

The Saipan lawmaker also asked for those who are awaiting land compensation pursuant to court judgments.

"This should include civil case numbers, actual judgment order, amount to be compensated, location of property, purpose of taking, time of taking, size of lot, etc.," said Dela Cruz in a letter he wrote Friday.

In addition, Dela Cruz asked for a list of persons who are awaiting land compensation—whether monetary or land exchange—from the government whose wetlands have been taken for endangered species protection or for other purposes.

"I wanted to get update and an idea of how much exactly in payment moneys are we looking at," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said there's been a lot of reports of landowners threatening to close rights of ways.

"I'm quite concerned because a lot of landowners have passed away, never even seeing a penny being given back to them," the lawmaker said.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

HELPING HANDS
Department of Corrections Sergeant Arnold Seman, Corrections officers Abigael Borja, Danny Joab and Norris Kwon, together with inmates, take a break from repainting a bus stop near the 99 Cents supermarket on Middle Road yesterday. DOC will repaint and clean 42 bus stops before the school year starts. First lady Josie Fitial initiates the beautification project in collaboration with DOC and DPW.

CPA

From Page 1

Earlier this year, Fitial dissolved the CPA board, saying the ports authority was on the verge of a technical default on its multi-million dollar airport revenue bond, a threat noted in the new extension order, and that the board had failed to implement measures to prevent it.

"The extreme, immediate and imminent threat such condition poses to the [CNMI] must be avoided," the order says, adding that the declaration will remain in effect until enough CPA board appointments "have been made and consented to by the Senate."

The Senate last month voted unanimously to confirm former Tinian senator Manuel Villagomez as a board appointee. Villagomez joins former CPA board chair Joe Lifoifoi, who was asked to rescind his May 16 resignation and stay on the board. The remaining nominees yet to be confirmed are Miriam Seman and Barry Toves.

Absalon Waki Jr., advertising sales manager for the *Saipan Tribune*, declined a nomination to the board earlier this month, citing professional obligations. Frank Camacho, a manager for Pacific Orient Inc., confirmed he has also declined the position.

In an interview Wednesday, Senate President Pete Reyes said lawmakers are reviewing the remaining nominees through the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee.

"It's safe to say that the Senate is going to let the EAGI committee do its job," Reyes said, noting that he plans to call for a session on the matter Friday.

SANTOS

From Page 1

agent, through a company Santos controlled—a deal that circumvented procurement regulations and violated conflict of interest statutes.

Most of the more than 8,000 gallons of Rydlyme sold under the plan were never used and never needed, the indictment adds.

Yet at the time federal authorities say Villagomez and Santos concocted the deal, tax records uncovered Wednesday show that the company that later filled the Rydlyme orders—Santos' ISLA Sales Micronesia—was nonexistent.

Santos opened ISLA Sales Micronesia in April 1998, roughly two months after authorities say he and Villagomez began the scheme, records show, and ISLA's business license expired in April 2006. Department of Finance staff found no business license records for the company before April 1998.

The opening of the company later responsible for filling the Rydlyme orders under a sole source CUC contract in 2007, Joaquina Santos' Blue Pacific, bears a similar correlation to the indictment. Villagomez sought to revive the sales scheme in August of that year, the indictment notes, and pressured CUC staff to approve the deal.

Joaquina Santos obtained Blue Pacific's first business license, tax records show, on Aug. 23, 2007. Again, Finance staff found no license information prior to that date.

The Rydlyme sales netted the Santos' $280,000 from 1998 to 2000 and $120,000 in 2007, the indictment states.

Moreover, the tax records note one of the locations for ISLA Sales Micronesia is a site designated as "45299 Retail General Merchandise" in As Lito. This is the same spot, according to the records, as the site for Blue Pacific. The business license for Blue Pacific will expire Aug. 23.

The Santos couple and Villagomez pleaded not guilty in a federal court to three felony counts of wire fraud, conspiracy and theft involving federal funds over the sales after authorities unsealed an indictment against them on Monday.

Former CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero, included in the indictment, has pleaded guilty to conspiracy after inking a plea agreement with prosecutors and might testify when the case comes before a jury in October.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, Commerce Secretary James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos are swarmed by supporters and the media as soon as they exit the U.S. District Court at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan Monday afternoon.

SAIPAN

From Page 1

it," the lawmaker pointed out.

House Local Bill 16-10, introduced by Rep. David M. Apatang and amended by House Speaker Arnold Palacios, was passed on a 14-1 vote.

After the voting, Speaker Palacios thanked members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for supporting the bill.

Palacios also admonished Sablan, counseling that if a train is leaving, a person has to jump onto the train or risk being left behind.

Sablan replied: "If you see the train is going in the wrong direction and is headed toward the cliff, then change the driver."

In opposing its passage, Sablan first noted that the substitute bill was just introduced that morning and that they have not had enough time to review it.

"It is much different from the bill that it was substituting for. Then we went on recess and it was radically changed again," she told *Saipan Tribune* after the session.

Basically, the lawmaker said, it is a budget using poker fees that are anticipated for the fiscal year.

"I just didn't think that we were doing our due diligence as legislators," she said.

Sablan said the responsible thing would be to give lawmakers time to review the proposed expenditure plan for fiscal year 2009.

She pointed out that the anticipated revenue of $4.7 million is expected to decline and that in the past there's a trend of appropriating more than what the government actually collects.

"It seems to me grossly irresponsible to appropriate every single penny of what we expect to earn when those projections have been wrong in the last couple of years," she said.

The Legislature, she added, might once again be over-appropriating.

With respect to the appropriation of hundreds of thousands for road paving and drainage improvements for secondary roads, Sablan said she doesn't even know where these road are located.

"I think most of the legislators, with the exception of the ones who have been pushing for these particular roads, know where these roads are," she said.

Sablan wanted to be given an opportunity to at least drive to the areas where these roads are and check who live there.

She also raised concerns about the $100,000 that will be allocated to the Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

"Not because I am downgrading the very noble mission of this institute but because we don't really know much about the entity!" Sablan said. "We haven't seen the business plan."

She said it is her understanding until yesterday that this is an institute that is entirely private sector driven.

"I really feel that if we had just done our due diligence, put all our heads together and done this right, we could find real priorities where we could put this increasingly limited funds," the legislator said.

With respect to the new baseball field project, Sablan cited that there is already a new baseball field on Navy Hill.

"And it is a small area! Do they need two baseball fields? That is something that we should be asking from the community," Sablan said.

She said people in the CNMI should be aware of the culture of gamesmanship and irresponsible legislation that "is driving now in this Legislature and has existed for many, many years."

FUNDING

From Page 1

■ $50,000 for the CNMI Little League;
■ $25,000 for the Fishing Derby;
■ $20,000 for the Agricultural Fair;
■ $15,000 for the Flame Tree Arts Festival;
■ $75,000 for the Saipan Zoning;
■ $30,000 for the A&E design and construction of the Anthony T. Benavente Baseball Field on Navy Hill;
■ $111,400 for road improvement and paving of Gloria Drive on Navy Hill;
■ $200,000 for road paving and drainage improvement of Egigi Road, Piligro Lane, Sea Coast Lane, Rota Place, and Orhopay Place;
■ $100,000 for the construction of a pavilion, procurement of children's playground equipment, and improvement of the public facilities at the Capitol Hill Children's Park to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
■ $200,000 for road paving of Gangoche Road to Pika Road in Precinct I;
■ $200,000 for road paving and drainage improvements and renovations of public facilities in Precinct II;
■ $10,000 for the improvement of public facilities at Pakpak Beach Park;
■ $21,000 for repairs and maintenance of Dandan Elementary School; and
■ $100,000 for the Northern Marianas Trades Institute

Reyes says resignation is up to Villagomez

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Senate President Pete P. Reyes said yesterday that Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez is a good administrator and that resignation is a decision that he needs to do by himself.

"I'm not going to suggest to him what to do," said Reyes in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

He said he is hoping that Villagomez can convince the federal court that he is innocent and go back to his job as lieutenant governor.

Reyes said he feels bad about the indictment because Villagomez is a very good friend and a former colleague in the Legislature.

"He is a good administrator and most of all he is family. He's a very close relative," the senator said.

Reyes

At the same time, he said he is relieved to know that Villagomez pleaded not guilty.

"I hope and pray that he will be able to come out of this, proving his innocence," he said. "The wonderful thing about democracy and the way a republican form of government is being operated is that a person is not guilty until he or she is proven guilty."

Reyes pointed out that Villagomez is supposed to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

A check yesterday afternoon showed that it was business as usual at the lieutenant governor's office. His staff refused to say whether Villagomez reported for work or not. His legal counsel, Teresa Kim, was not available for comments.

Villagomez, his sister Joaquina Villagomez Santos, her husband Commerce Secretary James Santos, and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero were indicted Monday on charges of conspiring to bilk the CMMI and U.S. governments out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless chemical purchases for CUC.

PULL TABS TO WHEEL CHAIRS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shigeki Tenorio, left, with family—Clarence Tenorio Sr., Kristina Tenorio, and Craig Tenorio—recently donated 15 3-liter bottles filled with aluminum can pull tabs to the Social Welfare Council of Ishinomaki, Japan. The pull tabs were collected all over Saipan by Shigeki's friends and family members. They will be donated to Konan Junior High School for the purchase of wheelchairs.

Marriage fraud trial ends

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The trial of a Bangladeshi man accused of conspiring to commit marriage fraud ended Wednesday, with both sides agreeing the defendant was present during the planning of the crime, but disagreeing on whether he knew the crime was taking place.

Both Assistant Attorney General Melissa Simms and defense attorney Steve Pixley agreed that Minto Minto was standing outside of a car when others were making arrangements for fake marriages in order to obtain a labor or immigration cards, but disagreed on whether he was aware of what was going on.

Minto is charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit marriage fraud and two counts of solicitation.

According to the charging information, in March 2007 Maria Aurelio Ray, Muhammad Saiful Islam and Minto agreed on a plan for Islam to marry Alisilynn Mallens for the sole purpose of obtaining labor and immigration benefits.

Also in March 2007, Ray, Munnaf Miah and Minto allegedly conspired that Miah would marry Severene Kosam for the purpose of obtaining labor and immigration benefits.

"The evidence shows Mr. Minto was present, that's it," Pixley said.

Simms argued Minto was within earshot and could hear the discussions taking place and was actively involved in the plans for the fake marriages.

"This definitely is the most unlucky person, or up to his eyeballs in this conspiracy," Simms said of Minto. "He's up to his eyeballs."

She said Islam was going to give Minto $1,000 for setting up the marriage. Islam's green card expired on May 6, 2005.

"He needed to get married and he needed to get married fast," Simms said.

The government went after Minto because he was "an outsider," Pixley said.

In July, Miah was found guilty of soliciting marriage fraud, but he was acquitted on the charge of conspiring with others to commit marriage fraud.

In May, a jury found Ray guilty of two counts of conspiracy to commit marriage fraud, but acquitted her on two counts of solicitation.

Islam fled to Bangladesh before he could be tried.

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Judge says public defender misled the court

BACK TO THE ISLANDS
Recently-wed Aileen Cabrera Ada of Saipan and Jennis Lee Wright of Maryland. In 2005, Ada graduated from St. Mary's College in Maryland. She will be moving back to the CNMI with her husband and daughter, Nia, in September. Ada also worked one summer as an intern with the Office of the Resident Representative in Washington, D.C.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo said that Public Defender Richard Miller committed "fraud on the court" by withholding a restitution claim stemming from a traffic infraction.

In his decision, Govendo said Miller's silence when asked about the claim "allowed the court to be misled as to [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s] restitution claim" and "was a fraud upon the court."

During a May 20 restitution hearing, the Commonwealth as the plaintiff reported it had not received restitution information from the victim, CUC. The court had previously ordered CUC to submit a restitution claim on or before April 21.

"The court, relying on the mistaken belief that the CUC had not delivered a restitution claim to either part, determined that no restitution would be awarded in this matter," the order stated.

The matter was taken off the court calendar because of the expiration of probation on June 3.

On May 22, the Commonwealth filed a notice and motion to schedule a restitution and review hearing. In the notice, the Commonwealth included a copy of a date-stamped CUC claim for restitution that had been received by the Office of the Public Defender on May 8. A review hearing was held on June 3 and continued to July 16, before it was continued again to Aug. 27.

On July 23, the court learned CUC's written claim for restitution had been in the possession of defendant's lawyer at the May 20 restitution hearing.

"This silence as the court inquired as to the status of the CUC's claim was a violation of counsel's duty of candor to the court," Govendo wrote.

Due to the fraud, the court's decision not to award restitution is void, the order stated.

According to the order, the court accepted Miller's apology for his conduct at the May 20 hearing.

On Tuesday, Miller said he disagreed with Govendo's conclusion.

"I didn't perpetrate any fraud on the court," he said.

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Sunday August 31st
♦ Main event resumes at 2:00pm
♦ Continues until last man standing
♦ Awarding ceremony
SATELLITE SCHEDULE
Sign up for as little as $11!!
PHASE ONE: Every Friday night from 8:00pm
$11 entry, min. 10pax / event. Winner wins seat in Phase Two event.
PHASE TWO: Every Saturday night from 8:00pm
$110 entry, min. 10pax / event. Winner wins seat in Main event.
♦ Special 2-For-1 room rate available for participants during main event weekend.
♦ Freeroll event is open to participants who are fully paid by 11:00am 08/30/08. Prize includes three nights deluxe accommodation, breakfast for two and US$200.00 cash.. Conditions apply.
♦ Please note, accommodation is not included with entry fee.
TINIAN DYNASTY HOTEL & CASINO
POKER
Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
Please contact VIP Services: Tel: (670) 328-2285
"Bet with your head, not over it"

Ada is named acting Commerce Secretary

Deputy Commerce Secretary Michael Ada is slated to take the role of the department's acting head when he returns from an off-island trip after the indictment of Secretary James Santos on felony fraud charges.

In an interview Wednesday, Charles Reyes, spokesman for Gov. Benigno Fitial, said that Ada will "fill-in" for Santos upon his return until the governor can appoint a new secretary.

"He'll be back very shortly," Reyes said. "When he does, Mike will assume the secretary's job in an acting capacity."

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, Santos, and his wife Joaquina pleaded not guilty in federal court Monday on three felony counts of wire fraud, conspiracy and theft involving federal funds. Prior to Santos' term as Commerce chief, he owned one of two companies federal authorities say filled chemical sales orders for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in a scheme to defraud the government.

Reyes said that Santos briefly appeared for work at the Department of Commerce earlier this week. Staff at the department's offices, however, said he was not seen yesterday and revealed he has taken a leave of absence.

Commerce staff described conditions at the department for now as "business as usual."

Fitial appointed Santos in 2006. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

Haze not linked to Anatahan

Current hazy weather conditions are not related to the Anatahan volcano, the CNMI Emergency Management Office said yesterday.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the plume of smoke from Anatahan is heading away from Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

EMO's SO2 analyzer indicated that the air contained 99ppb (parts per billion) as of 10:30am yesterday.

Mariners should take precautionary measures due to low visibility in open water. More information can be found at www.cnmiemo.gov.mp.

Domestic violence suspect had an outstanding warrant

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man arrested for assault and battery, and criminal mischief this week was found to have an outstanding warrant from 1993.

Ramon A. Bermudes, 50, was arrested after allegedly striking his sister-in-law and his sister-in-law's husband.

After his arrest, it was discovered he had a bench warrant out for a 1993 traffic case.

Bermudes was released on $1,500 bail for the assault and battery, and criminal mischief arrests and fined $50 for the bench warrant. He was also ordered to surrender all travel documents and to not leave Saipan.

On Aug. 9, the Department of Public Safety received a call from "Sam" reporting a domestic violence disturbance in Chalan Kanoa.

The suspect allegedly punched the victims and turned over a picnic table after the couple, along with the suspect's wife, returned home from a party, according to the report.

"The suspect came to [them] as he yelled bad words to them in Chamorro language," the report stated.

The suspect turned himself in on Aug. 11.

Warning out vs mosquito-, rat-borne bacteria

With the onset of the rainy season, the Bureau of Environmental Health is advising the public to follow preventive guidelines as protection from the increased risk of bacterial and insect- and rodent-related infection.

The bureau suggests that residents avoid lowland and inland swimming holes. These areas are likely to contain harmful bacteria levels and can pose health risks to frequent visitors. Avoid standing in stagnant water.

Residents should remove all artificial breeding areas for mosquitoes and rodents. Avoid all standing water or pools of water, and remove them if possible. Stagnant pools of water serve as breeding areas for disease-carrying mosquitoes, insects and rodents. Remove and dispose of old tires, opened bottles and used cans to prevent harborage. Clean up yards to remove food, breeding and hiding spots for rodents, insects and mosquitoes.

Wear protective clothing in the early morning (dawn) and at dusk (sundown). Most mosquitoes bite during the early morning and evening hours. Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts if you insist on being outside during these periods. Dress your children accordingly, or try to limit the time your children spend outside during these period.

Residents are encouraged to practice proper hygiene regularly. As always, wash hands frequently and cover gaping bodily wounds properly.

If a family member experiences fever with a headache, body aches and rash, contact a doctor immediately.

The bureau also offers useful advice on how to avoid mosquito breeding areas and how to properly remove harborage areas. Should you have further questions or concerns, visit the bureau's office on Navy Hill or contact at 664-4870/72. ***(BEH)***

NMC registration begins next week

Registration for the Fall 2008 semester will begin on Monday, Aug. 18, 2008. New students are required to take placement tests in math and English before registering. Schedules for placement tests and Fall 2008 classes can be found online at www.nmcnet.edu. Students who are only taking classes for certification purposes or for personal enrichment do not need to take the placement tests.

Ongoing students must clear outstanding balances at the Finance Office, the Library or the Curriculum Resource Center before they can register for classes. To find out if a balance exists, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records at the NMC Campus in As Terlaje.

All students must first obtain the required slip from the English department before meeting with their academic advisors to complete the registration form; registrants must then proceed to Room D-1 to complete the billing portion of registration. A complete list of academic advising contacts as well as registration procedures may be found on the NMC website.

Applications for admissions will be accepted until the last day of registration, August 23, 2008, provided that both placement tests have been taken. Note the following dates below:

Aug. 15 New Student Orientation
9:30am Room: D-1
5:30pm Room: D-1

Aug. 18 - 29 Registration Period for Fall 2008 Semester (must have English & Math Placement Level to register)

Aug. 23 Late Registration ($25 fee)

Aug. 25 First Day of Instruction

Aug. 25 - 29 Add/Drop Week (100 percent refund)

English Placement Test Schedule

Aug. 20 5pm - 8pm
Room: A-9

Aug. 21 8am - 11am
Room: A-9

Math Placement Test Schedule

Aug. 14 10am - 12pm
Room: D-1

5pm - 7pm Room: D-1

Aug. 19 10am - 12pm
Room: A-9

Aug. 21 5pm - 7pm
Room: A-9

BUD OLYMPICS WINNERS

Bud Olympics winners relax and kick back with a Bud at the Great Wall of China. From left to right, Guam winner Lynda Laracuente, Saipan winner Darlene Macaranas, Ambros sales manager John Myers, Ambros marketing manager Casey Truong, Guam winner Brad Jiblets, and Palau winner Cornelius Bruno.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Heritage, arts exhibit at Joeten Motors

The Annual CNMI Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit will open on Aug. 29 and will run until Sept. 30 at the Joeten Motors Building in San Jose.

The CNMI Cultural Heritage Exhibit will feature traditional Carolinian and Chamorro crafts as part of the CNMI-Wide Cultural Heritage month celebration in September.

The Arts Pacifica Exhibit will also feature artworks from the Pacific islands such as Micronesia, Polynesia, and Melanesia.

"Together with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture's newest partner, Joeten Motors, we aim to continue the efforts of promoting, protecting and preserving our unique cultures through exhibits such as this, as well provide an opportunity for public appreciation of the quality and unique arts and cultures of the Chamorro's/Carolinian's as well the inclusion of neighboring cultures," said the CCAC in a statement issued yesterday.

All interested artists and collectors are encouraged to submit and register their artworks at the Arts Council's Office on Capital Hill starting Friday, Aug.15, up to Aug. 25, 2008, from 8am to 4pm, no later than these dates.

For more information, contact arts coordinators Lucille T. Ayuyu or Parker Yobei at (670) 322-9982/9983. ***(PR)***

OFWs told to renew OWWA memberships

Overseas Filipino workers with legal work status in the CNMI should renew their Overseas Workers Welfare Administration memberships soon and remember to pay the annual $25 fee

Those who have failed to renew in previous years are not required to pay retroactive fees.

OWWA members are entitled to benefits and services like life insurance coverage (inclusive of burial benefit), natural death insurance ($2,689), accidental death insurance ($4,930), disability and dismemberment benefits, total disability benefits, education and training benefits, social services, family welfare assistance and on-site services.

For more information call 235-3411/235-6992. ***(Jacqueline Dela Cruz)***

Job Opportunity

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

CASHIER

- Will handle cash/charge transactions for Joeten Motor Company.
- Must be proficient in basic accounting & computerize cashiering with the ADP System, TAMS System and credit card machine.
- Some cashiering experience will be helpful but will train.
- Salary will commensurate with experience.

NAPA AUTO PARTS COUNTER - SALES PERSON

- Must have at least 2yrs. experience in the Auto Parts Business.
- Be able to read and understand Online Parts Catalogs but will train.
- Must be proficient in basic math & some knowledge in basic computer skills (MS Word/Excel spreadsheet).
- Good communication skills.
- Willing, able and ready to work.
- Salary will commensurate with experience.

Interested applicants should pick up an Application Form from Risha at Joeten Motor Company, Inc the main office. No phone calls, please. Serious Inquires Only!

Joeten Motor Company, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug-free workplace.

Sister Remedios

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

ANNOUNCEMENT

We will be holding an Orientation/Open house on Monday, August 18, 2008, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. We will be welcoming all enrolled students on Tuesday, August 19, 2008.

Registration is still on-going for children ages 3 to 5 years old. We also offer daycare for after school.

For more information please contact our office at 234-6247. Our office hours are from 7:30am to 5:00pm. You can also email us at srrecdc@yahoo.com.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on **Thursday, August 21, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #107; Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT REPORTS
- Investment Consultant Reports
  - Flash Reports – July 2008
  - APAFS Conference
- Loan Administrator Reports
- Legal Counsel Reports*
  - Home Loan Program Matters
  - APLE 501
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – June 2008

III CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- Office Space Matters

IV OLD BUSINESS
- Tinian Public Market

V NEW BUSINESS
- Employment/Independent Contracts
- FY 2008-2008 Independent Audit RFP
- IFEBP: International & Emerging Markets

VI EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII MISCELLANEOUS

VIII ADJOURNMENT

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Department of Public Safety
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Armory Unit will be clearing its inventory of firearms with expired registrations. These weapons will be slated for destruction.

Registered firearm owners who have surrendered their weapons to DPS may contact the Records and Identification Section to declare their weapons with the proper registration forms and proof of ownership documents.

All interested parties should have the proper documentation completed and ready prior to contacting the Records and Identification Section at 664-9072/73 or the Armory Unit at 664-9031.

/s/ Lei Ogumoro

Skateboard park eyes Oct. opening

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Island SK8 Society members, together with their secretary, Deirdre McClarin, present a thank you card and t-shirts to Rotary Club of Saipan president Ben Babauta and Rotarians Dennis Yoshimoto, Laurie Peterka, Christine Parke and Joshua Sasamoto during the club's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant. The $150,000 Garapan skating park, a project of the Rotary, will have its soft opening on October and is expected to be finished by September.

After months of construction on Garapan Central Park's skateboard park, local skaters can look forward to a soft opening in October.

Park construction is expected to be complete by Sept. 26, and the Saipan Rotary Club hopes the park will be officially open by October.

According to the Island Skate Society, the cost of the project has reached nearly $150,000.

Deirdre McClarin, secretary of the Society, expressed particular gratitude to project sponsors Dennis Yoshimoto and Laurie Peterka of the Rotary Club.

Additional sponsors included the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Division of Parks and Recreation, and members of the Senate.

Rotary Club president Ben Babauta received a shirt and certificate of appreciation from the Society.

McClarin presented pictures of the "Graffiti Paint-Over Project," which will adorn the park's walls.

A group of the Society's skateboarders attended Tuesday's Rotary Club meeting to thank Babauta and the Club for their support. ***(Jacqueline Dela Cruz)***

Families enjoy 1st Children's Fun Day

Over 100 children and parents attended the first-ever Children's Fun Day held at Kilili Beach the afternoon of Sunday, Aug. 10.

The non-profit event offered an array of refreshments, face painting, puppet shows, and an especially entertaining clown.

Volunteers from different organizations, including the Department of Public Safety, led the children in joining different games such as musical chairs and "Fun with Newspapers."

Game winners received prizes like school supplies and toys from event sponsor Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Event coordinators Irene Tantiado and Patrick Maanao had only nine days to prepare for the event.

"It turned out well. Look at how many people showed up. The kids are enjoying themselves, we had many food given by so many donors and sponsors," said Maanao.

Maribeth Lumasag, a mother of two, said, "I find the event very well-organized and really fun."

Her 13-year-old daughter Carol Mae said she enjoyed Children's Fun Day and promised to attend next year's event.

Five-year-old Nikie Maanao said she thinks the event's plentiful balloons particularly entertaining.

The event's sponsors were Price Costco, Triple J, Five Star, Rotary Club of Saipan, Juan T. Lizama, Wendy & Nani Doroman, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Horizon Inc., Coca Cola, Patrick Calvo and the Department of Public Safety. ***(Jacqueline Dela Cruz)***

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Children line up to get their bodies painted during the first ever Children's Fun Day at Kilili Pavilion in Susupe Sunday afternoon. The children were treated to food, games, a puppet show and different kinds of kiddie entertainment.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy fourth birthday to LJ boy Reyes, who is celebrating his birthday today, Aug. 14. Greetings come from mom and dad and the Basa Onio family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sharp 6.2 quake shakes Vanuatu sea floor

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A strong earthquake has struck near the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu, but there were no immediate reports of damage and no tsunami warning was issued.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the magnitude 6.2 quake was centered 290 miles northwest of the key city of Luganville on the island of Espiritu Santo.

Vanuatu is part of the Pacific "ring of fire"—an arc of earthquake and volcanic zones stretching from Chile in South America through Alaska and down through Vanuatu to Tonga in the South Pacific.

Vanuatu is made up of 83 islands and lies just over 1,400 miles northeast of Sydney, Australia.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 14, 1999

'Spare part-time students from scholarship cut'

Northern Marianas College officials have prodded Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to spare them from a new policy that disallows the government to provide scholarships to part-time students attending the island's lone higher learning institution. They warned the stringent regulation, which takes effect this semester, would force several of these scholars to drop out from college. Recipients of the locally-funded Educational Assistance Program comprise more than half of the student population at NMC.

Last batch of EITC checks out

Taxpayers patiently awaiting Earned Income Tax Credit can expect new checks in the mail within the next few days, representing the last batch of payment processed by the Department of Finance to meet its financial obligations for tax year 1997. Completing the entire EITC payment, the checks were mailed this week to a total of 2,045 recipients, mostly from low-income families, according to a statement issued by Finance Sec. Lucy DLG Nielsen.

Kresge takes over Chamber

With the constant threat of a federal takeover and continuing economic difficulties confronting businessmen, newly-appointed Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Gregg Kresge yesterday urged members to be more involved in the association and help the CNMI recover from the slump. The Chamber's board of directors voted Kresge to succeed Kerry M. Deets, who resigned from the presidency four months ahead of the end of her term.

August 14, 2000

Website on Northern Islands launched

The Northern Islands has now its own website that its officials hope will open up opportunities for several of the small islands that have long been shut off from the rapid development in the three main islands of Saipan, Rota and Tinian. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and other local officials as well as business leaders got a preview of the website (www.northernislands.org) during a launching party held last Friday at the mayor's office in Garapan.

Froilan: I'm not backing out

Former Governor Froilan C. Tenorio said yesterday he would seek again the highest post in the Commonwealth in next year's general election under the Reform Party, contrary to rumors that he was backing out. The former local chief executive, who was then a Democrat, ran but lost in the 1997 polls to his uncle, incumbent Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, a Republican.

BOE issues reminders to new voters

The Board of Elections has announced that eligible voters who wish to register to vote are required to provide proof of citizenship before they can register to vote in Commonwealth elections. A birth certificate or a United States passport are acceptable proofs of citizenship. Driver's license and other types of identifications are not acceptable. This policy was implemented by the Board of Elections on Aug. 11, 2000.

August 14, 2001

NMC had only 978 graduates since '94

The Northern Marianas College has awarded eleven different degrees and certificates to only 978 students since 1994, a number described by the business community as "too low" to replace even a fraction of nonresident professionals now working in the CNMI. The degrees awarded by field of study from 1994 to 2000 include Business & Hospitality, Education, Liberal Arts General, Nursing & Allied Health, Public Safety Administration, and Trades & Technical.

CDA blocks amendments to investment 'come-on' law

The Commonwealth Development Authority opposes the passage of a measure that would amend the Investment Incentive Act, saying the proposed law would cater to only a select few and would further cripple the ailing CNMI economy. In a letter to Senate President Paul Manglona and House of Representatives Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, the CDA said that House Bill 12-380, which would primarily benefit past investors, violates a fundamental principle of law that past consideration is not adequate consideration under the law.

Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

August 14 thru August 20, 2008

Department Store

Lakewood 20" 3 Speed Box Fan
$24.99 ea.

Living Accent 16" Stand Fan
$24.99 ea.

Supermarket

Western Family Chocolate Chip Cookies 16oz.
$3.99 ea.

Western Family Baking Chunky Chip Cookies 15oz.
$3.99 ea.

Pringles 6 Pack 3-Orig/2-Sour/1-cz
$6.99 bx.

Pringles 6 Pack Small
$2.99 pk.

JOETEN ACE HARDWARE

New Arrival!
CFL Light Bulbs

sku # 3225430
Spiral CFL Warm Light 13W

3225570, 5703
Spiral CFL Warm or Day Light 15W

3225711, 5752
Spiral CFL Warm or Day Light 20W

3225778
Spiral CFL Warm Light 23W

3225398, 5414
Mini 3-U CFL Warm or Day Light 15W

$3.99 ea.

Come and visit us for more sale!
Hurry, while supplies last!

Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm/Sunday 8am - 5pm

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Joeten Shopping Center Beach Road, Susupe
Tel: 234-3117 or 6448 - Fax: 235-7568

GUALO RAI BRANCH
Gualo Rai Commercial Center
Middle Road Tel: 235-9322 - Fax: 235-9325

SAN VICENTE BRANCH
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MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M. - 11:00P.M.

JOETEN ACE HARDWARE

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

West confronts an unfamiliar sight: A nation bent on conquest

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

In Moscow on Monday, President Dmitry Medvedev gave every indication that Russia was winding up its military operation in Georgia. Meanwhile, his forces continued to advance into that sovereign nation and bomb widely dispersed strategic targets there. The contradiction was consistent with the Russian regime's behavior throughout this crisis: Its words have borne no connection to its actions; its actions are untethered to international norms.

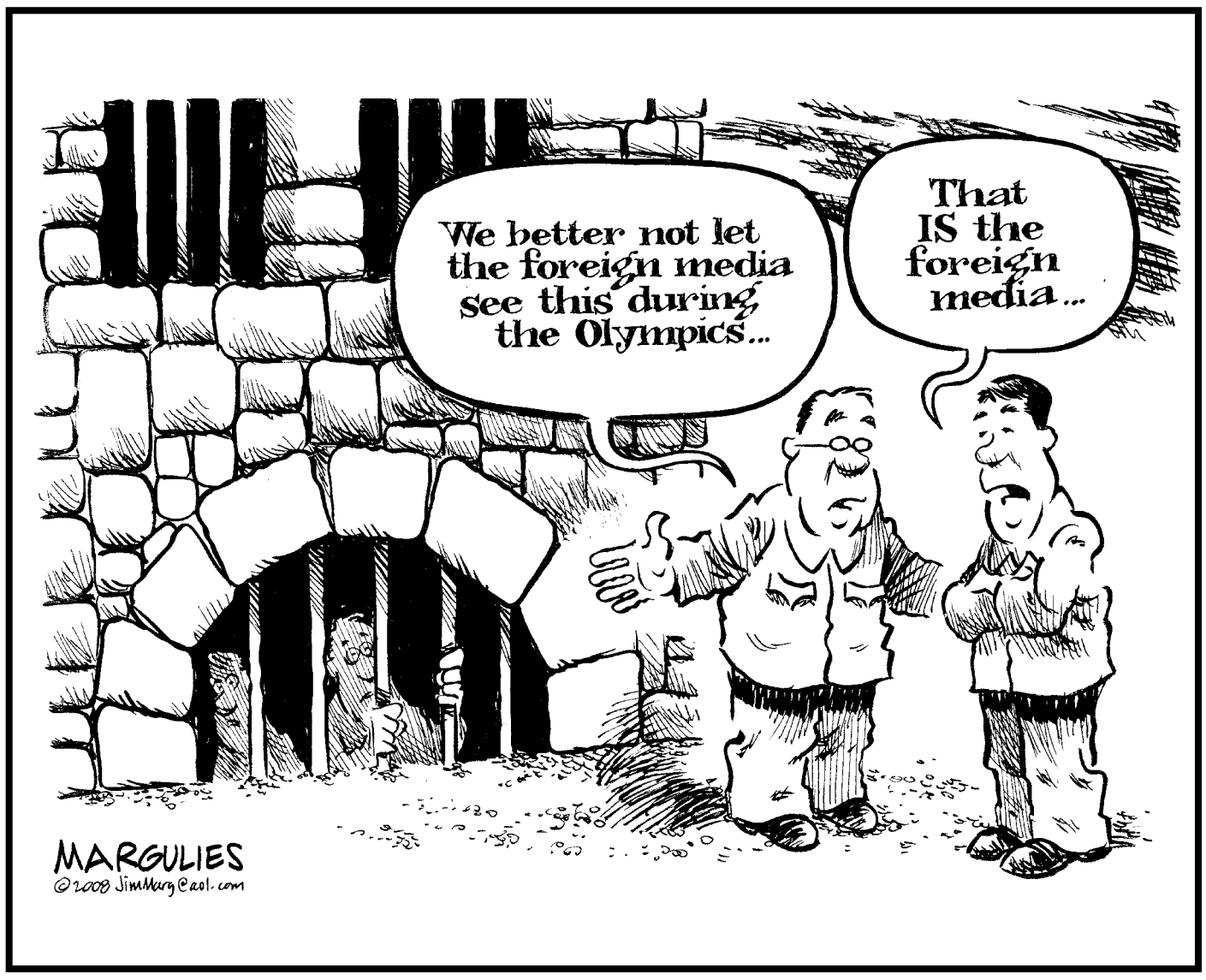
We're pleased to publish on the opposite page an analysis by former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev. He sees the origins of this crisis very differently from how we do, but he agrees that "hostilities must cease as soon as possible." What he doesn't spell out is that such an outcome rests entirely in the hands of Mr. Medvedev—or of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, depending on who is really in charge. Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili has accepted a French proffer of an immediate cease-fire. Russia, by contrast, seems determined to depose Georgia's government because it has not been willing to act as vassal and submit to Russia's resurgent imperial ambitions. "Russia has invaded a sovereign neighboring state and threatens a democratic government elected by its people," President Bush said Monday. "Such an action is unacceptable in the 21st century."

Well said, but what to do about it? Of course we support the intensified diplomacy that is taking place, including France's efforts to negotiate a truce. Nations on every continent should make clear that invasion and conquest are not acceptable modes of behavior and that Russia will face long-term and damaging consequences if it persists in occupying parts of Georgia and even more damaging consequences if it extends its military campaign. NATO's plans for the joint defense of members such as Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland need to be urgently upgraded; the decision to hold the Winter Olympics in a Russian city near the Georgian border should be re-examined; Europe's insouciance about its dependence on Russian oil and gas should be a thing of the past.

But the most urgent need is to see clearly what is taking place. As the crisis deepened, one could hear in Washington the usual attempts to blame the victim, as if Georgia somehow deserved this fate because its elected government had opted for friendly relations with the West. There were also the predictable efforts to score domestic political points.

Fortunately, both candidates for president rose above such temptations, issuing statements that showed they understand the moral calculus and the stakes—and that the U.S. election will not yield a president any more tolerant of the Kremlin's bullying. Monday morning, Sen. John McCain, R, condemned the attacks, outlined a series of policy responses and said, "We must remind Russia's leaders that the benefits they enjoy from being part of the civilized world require their respect for the values, stability and peace of that world." Later in the day, Sen. Barack Obama, D, said, "There is no possible justification for these attacks" and added: "I have consistently called for deepening relations between Georgia and transatlantic institutions, including a Membership Action Plan for NATO, and we must continue to press for that deeper relationship."

That's the right call; but a precondition of a deepening relationship is the survival of an independent Georgia. As we write, Russia has put that survival shockingly in doubt.


We better not let the foreign media see this during the Olympics...
That IS the foreign media...
MARGULIES
©2008 JimMarg@aol.com

Hijacked by jackals

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

If the new multi-million dollar prison were to subject the inmates to hours each day without electricity, it would be considered cruel and unusual punishment to have them swelter in the heat and sit in the dark. Yet each of us are prisoners on an isolated island, subjected to the discretionary whims of a sadistic warden who regularly has its inhabitants experience hot, uncomfortable days and nights by turning off the electricity for prolonged periods of time.

Aren't you about fed up with the utterly inane antics of the CNMI's utility monopoly referred to as CUC? Individuals who have lived here several years have become somewhat acclimated to the gradual deterioration of their electric service, similar to a lab rat that gets used to a scientist who periodically administers electric shocks. However, those who have recently moved to Saipan are dismayed at the absurd and frequent outages we experience.

In addition to being in contention for the worst managed utility company in the United States, CUC has earned the distinction for charging the most for its electricity rates as compared to all other U.S. states – and possibly the world (except we couldn't verify data for that dubious claim).

According to a report released by the Energy Information Administration last Friday, the average cost for a kilowatt hour in the U.S. was 10.31 cents for residential and 9.67 cents for commercial. The state with the highest rate is Hawaii at 29.92 cents, and the lowest rate is found in Idaho at 6.68 cents. Source: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epm/table5_6_a.html>

Also, in every state except Tennessee and the District of Columbia, the commercial rates were lower than the residential rates. And in all states, except for Hawaii, the rate did not exceed 19 cents. There is no comparison in the U.S. to the high cost and deplorable service we're experiencing.

Without reliable and affordable power, it is difficult to provide basic services, encourage tourists to come and return, or for businesses to keep their doors open. Actually, many businesses are now keeping their doors open because they cannot afford their utility bill. Even though CUC has almost quadrupled their rates in the past couple of years, residents and businesses have responded by reducing their usage so that their payments are not fantastically high.

Many businesses have shut their air conditioners off, turned on fans, and keep a minimum number of lights on. Likewise, residents have learned to not use their dryer, turn off their water heater, and cook with butane stoves so that their utility bill is not higher than their rent or mortgage payment.

We, as utility users are victims of the many years of greed, neglect, and mismanagement. And, to some degree we as voters are to blame for re-electing and tolerating politicians who either ignore or contribute to the debacle. We have allowed CUC to hijack us and raise rates at their discretion until we are paying more than four times the average rate of U.S. citizens. We have allowed jackals to squander good money for bad purposes without reprimanding or prosecuting them. In case you're wondering, a jackal is a dog-like animal in Africa, but it is also a metaphor for somebody who works with others to deceive people, especially to swindle them out of money.

The FBI has its hands full as it continues to investigate the misuse of federal funds, earmarked for CUC. The trail will likely uncover the many years of squandered money that should have been used to keep the engines running without interruption. Our utility problem must be corrected in order to stabilize the economic downslide that impacts everything else on the island and has deteriorated the quality of life for everyone who lives here.

When will it all end? The answer is not anytime soon, unless real changes occur. The Aggreko deal may solve the problem of frequent outages, but it will come at a price, and that price will probably be even higher rates for us. We agree with Ed Stephens that the only real solution may be for the federal government to step in and take over the operations of CUC. Not just the engines, but also the entire management of the organization. Anything less, will only result in a short-term fix and hasten our current state of emergency into a full-blown disaster.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Opportunists or congressional prudence

I have never publicly endorsed a candidate and I'm not about to now but I must offer my two cents of common sense on the congressional election because this is about our performance in Washington, not the CNMI. While many people may be facing adversity in deciding who to vote for I'm finding it relatively easy to determine our best choice but I won't say because the proof is in the details, as our Governor likes to say.

Who is a genuine and legitimate candidate for Congress and who is an opportunist? This is the question I have been asked and have discussed with people. One thing for sure was established in these conversations and that is we have some opportunists trying to take advantage of the new seat in Congress. Everyone knows that if the election was for the same old Washington Rep post, we would have fewer candidates. The average voting citizen should realize this phenomenon of opportunism that is driven by a big paycheck and glory, seeking to be the first. This is not a popularity contest and it's no time for politics as usual. The people really need to focus on supporting the legitimate candidate for the office with a knowledge of Congress and the experience to deal with the U.S. Congress and to do otherwise is like playing poker in Washington and we are suffering enough from poker; personally, I don't gamble.

To put an unqualified person in Washington at this point is nothing more than playing poker or worse and it defies common sense. I don't have to say who the legitimate candidate is because people who are knowledgeable about the candidates for Congress and their experience know who is really a proven legitimate and qualified candidate and there's only one. The winning candidate must have experience working with the U. S. Congress. This is the big league and it will be difficult and even impossible to accomplish anything for someone who needs to learn about Washington and the 600-plus people in Congress before they can do any real work and they only have two years to do it.

Furthermore, you can't totally fix the CNMI in Washington D.C.—which some candidates seem to think—because the epic center of our problems is on Capital Hill, not in D.C. I'm sure all the candidates care and want to make a difference, which is what truly hurts me because I really like and even admire most of the people running for the post. This is one of the most difficult letters I have ever had to write because I consider some of the candidates as true friends but there is simply too much at stake and somebody needs to speak up about this political circus. The people need a reality check given our economic conditions—not an eight-ring political circus.

I also hate to see some of them waste their time and money trying to compete against what is clearly a heavyweight battle—but it is their call and right and I have personally told some of them as much—so I hope they are not offended by this letter because there is no disrespect intended. We are facing what is clearly an economic depression and we need federal assistance more than ever.

The federal government, not the administration, is our only option that is willing and able to finance our recovery. We can't take any chances losing what little political real estate has been established by the present Washington Rep., who is working well with Congress. It's our leadership that didn't work with the feds, didn't work with the Washington Rep., doesn't work with the Lt. Governor, didn't work with Mrs. Warfield, Mr. Norita and me and look at the results—we went nowhere fast playing politics. It's not surprising to me because we saw the pattern before with the downfall of the Froilan Administration and the Reform Party and the same phenomenon is repeating itself with this administration and the Covenant Party. Maybe this time we will learn the lessons taught to us in our own CNMI History about politicians promising the moon and we end up with s@&%*.

The people of the CNMI can't afford to let the selection of the U. S. Congress seat to be about family ties, friendships and politics because we see what happened to us when elections are based on these factors. We suffer. Voters need to use their common sense to realize who is really legitimate and who can help us the most. Don't waste your vote. Believing a person is qualified is one thing but voting for family, friendships and politics is not going to help us get the best person to Washington to help us.

Speaking of helping us, one candidate is supporting the lawsuit against the federal government and claiming to be a Democrat. I'm sure people with common sense can see the problem he will have with Congress. He may be a Democrat but he will be by himself, trying to fight the very Democratic Congress that passed the law. He may never get a word in for the CNMI. He may also be in violation of CNMI law by not giving up his elected position to run. At any rate, he is self-destructing and anyone with common sense knows we can't send anyone who wants to fight with the feds and this Democratic Congress.

We have candidates with no party connections, no experience in politics, and no record of public service. People are retiring, taking leave and some are just running to make a statement like we see with Ralph Nader who runs in every presidential election. But just think, with so many people in the race, the best person may not even win and we lose! Family, friends and politics may really be the difference, which is why these factors can't be the criteria for our vote—we need the best person! When and if you are approached, do tell the candidate(s) what they want to hear but please go inside that booth and vote for the best person! People need to ask only one question to make their decision: Does the candidate really have a platform, with the ability to accomplish something tangible in Washington, or are they just looking to hit the jackpot with the $160,000 salary and prestige that comes with the job? We need someone who is truly qualified, with the potential for a good relationship with the U.S. Congress.

Also, because of their party affiliation, only one candidate will have the status of being a ranking member of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs with Ms. Donna Christensen in Congress, which says a lot about his qualifications as being the only legitimate candidate and everyone should know or find out who that is because he offers our best hope for getting something accomplished. I'm sure he is also at the top of everyone's legitimate list. We need congressional prudence when it comes time to vote for our first U. S. congressman and nothing less.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

A dog and his shadow

The continuous stream of letters to the editor by federally funded WESPAC members and their employees and allies contain nets full of wild claims and misinformation and reminds me of the story about the dog and his shadow.

Here is the story: A happy, hungry dog walking along the street, found a red, juicy, mouth-watering, delicious steak that the butcher had inadvertently dropped when he went into his shop. As the dog picked up the steak in his mouth, the savory juices made him hungry, but there were other dogs in the area; and so, he decided to take it home in his mouth to eat it in leisure. On his way home, the dog came to a bridge over a deep pond with a surface so calm and clear, it was almost like a mirror. Halfway across, he looked down into the mirrored surface of the water and saw his shadow reflected in the water. The greedy dog, thinking it was another dog with another juicy steak, made up his mind to have that piece, too. Without thinking, he opened his mouth and snapped at his shadow reflected by the water. The beautiful, juicy steak, slid over his tongue, through his teeth, and dropped into the water where he watched it as it rapidly sank and was gone forever. The sad hungry dog had only his reflection to look at, and the memory of that wonderfully juicy steak, which had slipped away.

Likewise, we should beware of losing our juicy steak: The Marianas Trench Marine Monument. The jobs, visitors, and the international prestige that a marine monument would bring to the CNMI will all slip away by believing the WESPAC generated shadows of deceit and misinformation.

You may want to investigate further, if you think the federal agency WESPAC has CNMI's best interest at heart. Under WESPAC's management, we only have two votes out of 13 on the Council or about 14 percent representation.

It's also important to remember that WESPAC is under two federal investigations for illegal lobbying (in Hawaii and California) and another congressionally ordered investigation for financial and managerial improprieties (sound familiar?).

For more information on WESPAC, see:

- http://belammc.com/wespac/
- http://www.lostfishcoalition.org/page4.html
- http://mustbethehumidity.blogspot.com/2008/05/dark-underbelly-of-wespac-its-all-dark.html
- http://www.monachus-guardian.org/mguard12/1221covsto1.htm

In short, WESPAC will do and say anything to manipulate us and keep THEIR control over the CNMI's waters.

Ken Kramer
Fina Sisu, Saipan

Slater's diatribe

You missed the point pertaining to policy decisions since 60-plus years ago. At issue is the success or failure of U.S. policy in the CNMI. What's the answer? It's mostly the latter and one need not be a rocket scientist to figure this out. Look around you and you shall be guided realistically and accordingly.

Regarding the Japanese rra: Historically, it was only before World War II that the Micronesian Islands and the Northern Marianas had a sustainable and successful economy. We do not now have anything today! Again, it reverts to policy, no matter whether democracy existed then. Our people had relied upon their labor before the war to put food on the dinner table without detrimental reliance on food stamps.

I would have been satisfied carrying a red or the old TTG passport with a coconut tree on the cover today. A passport is only useful when traveling abroad and I can't buy a cup of coffee with it en route to a destination.

Today, I'm not sure that boasting a blue U.S. passport is safe when in the Middle East or anywhere in Asia. The Taliban and al-Qaeda are out to kill U.S. citizens. I'd like to be spared a violent and unsolicited death for carrying your blue passport. I know that someday I will die but there's no need to fast forward it because of our blue passport. Get the point, Slater?

Finally, spare me the seeming racist white male superiority blaring out of the spirit of your letter. Let's see, sir, I've been around and have seen and heard enough diatribes such as yours emanating from your whitish attitude. Mind you, we are people too and what we have today was a negotiated deal!

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Reverse discrimination

I could not help but respond to a comment I read by Ms. Irene Tantiado recently. In this article, Ms. Tantiado states that nonresident workers maintain "high standards of personal character and work performance, etc." While I do not wish to create any conflict here or speak poorly about anyone, I must say that I have heard countless incidents where guest workers refused to train new, local or American citizen employees in a job.

Actually, shortly after I arrived on Saipan several years ago, I had the same experience. My guest worker counterpart who was training me would not speak in English but attempted to train me in his native language, despite the fact that he spoke English and I could not speak his native language. Nor would he answer most of my questions and just ignored me much of the time. Additionally, since then, I have heard several other stories where guest workers refused to train a new local employee and would not answer their questions or help them to learn their new job. Perhaps they feared losing their own job, I don't know.

Ms. Tantiado, I have to ask you, is this practicing a high standard of personal character and work performance? Is it fair to treat others in a way that you would not want to be treated yourself? People who are not guest workers have a right to a job too and a fair and non-discriminatory work environment.

Again, I am not blaming anyone specifically, nor do I want to categorize an entire ethnic group by several specific incidences. I feel that everyone should be treated fairly, regardless of their race, but I have heard far too many situations where U.S. citizens are being treated unfairly by their guest worker counterparts. Because some guest workers are so fearful of losing their jobs, they discriminate against and will not properly train someone who is not a guest worker like themselves. I wonder why this is never reported? I would be curious how many others have had a similar experience.

I hope you can address this issue as it is of great concern to some people. Maybe we really do need an EEOC representative here full time to ensure equal employment opportunities for everyone. Again, I wish no disrespect to anyone and in fact, I hope that everyone will respect each other regardless of race, ethnicity or where they come from and will work together to create a harmonious environment.

Susan Marchitti
Capital Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

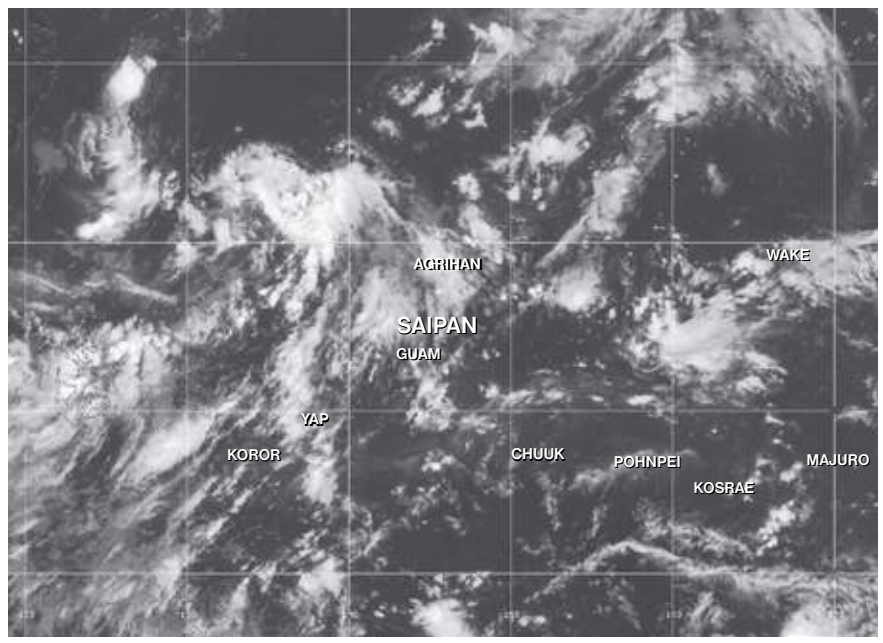
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲55	▼51
Beijing	Showers	▲88	▼71
Hong Kong	Showers	▲91	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲91	▼81
London	Showers	▲68	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼66
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲91	▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲56	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲92	▼77
New York	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼68
Osaka	Showers	▲87	▼76
Paris	Thundershowers	▲66	▼49
Pusan	Showers	▲84	▼77
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼65
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼57
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲71	▼57
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼73
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A low pressure system centered near 22N134E ties into a trough running from the center of the low to 13N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this system are seen southeast of Okinawa or between 20N and 25N from 130E to 141E and within 100 miles of a line from 20N137E to 14N130E. Convergent windflow into the low is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the area bounded by 10N130E to 21N145E to 18N147E to 12N138E to 5N138E to 9N134E to 7N130E and back to 10N130E. Divergence associated with an upper level trough running through Wake Island is enhancing showers and isolated thunderstorms within 120 miles of a line from 14N159E to 19N168E and between 23N and 25N from 173E to 175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:01AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
4:41AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:22PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:36PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02AM	6:41 PM
Friday	6:02AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	6:03AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	6:03AM	6:39 PM
Monday	6:03AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:49AM	3:23 PM
Friday	5:33AM	4:17 PM
Saturday	6:14AM	5:10 PM
Sunday	6:53AM	6:03 PM
Monday	7:31AM	6:55 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,005.100
Down 85.200
(-1.67%)

HONG KONG
21,511.21
Down 129.68
(-0.60%)

JAKARTA
2,069.9209
Up 12.342
(+0.60%)

TOKYO
13,008.78
Down 294.82
(-2.22%)

K. LUMPUR
1,118.78
Down 8.68
(-0.77%)

MANILA
2,721.94
Down 33.92
(-1.23%)

SINGAPORE
2,799.05
Down 17.77
(-0.63%)

SEOUL
1,562.25
Down 14.87
(-0.94%)

BANGKOK
703.39
Up 0.46
(+0.07%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,642.47
-139.88

NASDAQ
2,430.61
-9.34

S&P
1,289.59
-15.72

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1395
British Pound	0.5253
Canadian Dollar	1.0703
Chinese Renmbi	6.8625
Euro	0.6718
Hong Kong Dollar	7.81
Indian Rupee	42.302
Indonesian Rupiah	9183.5
Japanese Yen	110.185
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3338
New Zealand Dollar	1.4344
Philippine Peso	44.595
Singapore Dollar	1.4111
South Korean Won	1034.2
Swiss Franc	1.0884
Taiwan Dollar	31.16
Thailand Baht	33.855

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Oil prices dip again on signs of waning demand

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices fell again Tuesday, dampened by a stronger U.S. dollar and more evidence that developed countries such as the United States are cutting back on their energy use.

Light, sweet crude dipped by $1.44 to settle at $113.01 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after falling as low as $112.31, a new three-month low. Oil is now nearly $35 below its July 11 record high of $147.27.

The International Energy Agency lowered its forecast on Tuesday for oil product demand from 30 developed countries, located mostly in Europe and North America, to 48.6 million barrels a day, down 1.3 percent from last year.

The Paris-based energy watchdog's report arrived a day after China said its crude imports in July, while historically strong, were down 7 percent from the same month last year.

The IEA cautioned that it is too early to determine whether the recent fall in oil prices is a longer-term trend. It said demand in developing countries could offset declines in developed nations, and that it sees Chinese oil demand continuing to grow at a robust pace.

Budget deficit soars to $102.8 billion in July

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal budget deficit soared in July, pushed higher by economic stimulus payments and $15 billion in outlays to protect depositors at failed banks.

The Treasury Department reported that the deficit for July totaled $102.8 billion, nearly triple the $36.4 billion deficit recorded in July 2007.

The deficit outstripped the $97 billion gap that Wall Street economists had been expecting for July.

The Treasury said outlays were pushed up by $15 billion because of payments the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. made to depositors at failed banks. The Treasury report did not identify the banks but federal regulators seized the assets of California-based IndyMac Bank, the largest regulated thrift to fail in U.S. history.

The FDIC is expected to be successful in recovering much of its outlays for failed banks, in part by selling the assets of seized institutions. The FDIC has also raised the possibility that it will increase insurance premiums on healthy banks to cover the cost of what are expected to be rising bank failures as the current credit crisis unfolds. Besides the payouts by the FDIC, government outlays were increased by the final bulk mailings of government stimulus payments in July. The July deficit also looked worse than the July 2007 deficit because last year's figure was artificially deflated by timing issues that shifted about $19 billion in normal outlays into the prior month.

June trade deficit shrinks as exports climb

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. trade deficit has gone on a diet, helped by strong exports of farm products and manufactured goods and by Americans spending less as the economy limps along.

The deficit for June fell by 4.1 percent to $56.8 billion. That's the lowest level in three months and a surprise to economists who had expected an increase reflecting a big surge in oil prices during the month, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday.

While oil prices did rise to a record level, exports of everything from soybeans and corn to aircraft engines and heavy machinery surged by the largest amount in four years, offsetting the rising oil bill.

The better-than-expected June performance left analysts revising up their estimates for overall economic growth in the April-June quarter to as much as 3 percent. That would be more than a full percentage point higher than the 1.9 percent initial estimate for GDP growth.

Wall Street, however, was unimpressed by the June trade performance. Stocks took a tumble as gloomy news from JPMorgan Chase & Co. and other financial firms raised new anxieties about the continuing impact of a severe credit crisis on the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 139.88 points to close at 139.88.

AP

In this Jan. 7, 2007 file photo, a crane loads a cargo container onto a ship at the Port of Miami in Miami. Government data show the U.S. trade deficit unexpectedly fell in June as exports advanced to an all-time high, offsetting another big surge in oil imports.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Mortgage foreclosures bring out vultures

By DAVID UFFINGTON

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While the number of mortgage foreclosures soars, so do the incidents of foreclosure scams. Here are some of the signs that a mortgage foreclosure scam is in the works:

Bailout specialists promise to "rescue" the homeowner from foreclosure in exchange for fees that can run into the hundreds or thousands of dollars. Little work is actually done except for a few phone calls.

In the rescue scam, the homeowner is told to sign certain loan documents that will take care of the impending foreclosure -- except that the documents actually sign the title over to the scammer. The homeowner is left with no house and is still responsible for the mortgage.

In a variation of the rescue scam, the homeowner is told that the scammer will make the payments and take care of the foreclosure, and the homeowner can rent the house until he's able to buy it back later. The end result is that the homeowner is evicted when the scammer collects the rent, defaults on the payments or sells the house to someone else and pockets the profits.

If you can't make your mortgage payments and fear losing your house, talk to your lender. The earlier you do this, the better your chances that arrangements can be made to avoid foreclosure.

Here are some more tips:

■ Never sign any documents that have blanks, no matter how you're pressured. Don't sign any documents before you read (and understand) every word.

■ Don't respond to calls or mail about foreclosure rescue. There are companies that scour courthouse records to collect names of homeowners in trouble.

■ Never pay a fee for mortgage foreclosure assistance or services. Call a HUD certified counselor, but even then be careful. See the Web site at www.hud.gov.

■ Don't agree to send payments to anyone but your lender.

■ Never make any verbal agreements or trust anything that is not in writing.

■ Know your state laws. Length of time of the foreclosure process varies.

■ Contact an attorney who specializes in consumer law.

Most important of all, don't sell your house at a low price just to get rid of it, especially if the buyer is offering to "take it off your hands" and save you from foreclosure. Enlist the help of a real-estate agent to help you determine the true value of your home.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks fall sharply amid financial sector concerns

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street skidded lower Tuesday as downbeat news from JPMorgan Chase & Co. and other financial companies lifted the market's anxiety about the continuing impact of the credit crisis on the economy. The Dow Jones industrials fell nearly 140 points. The Dow fell 139.88, or 1.19 percent, to 11,642.47. Broader stock indicators also declined. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 15.73, or 1.21 percent, to 1,289.59, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 9.34, or 0.38 percent, to 2,430.61. The dollar was higher against most other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

JPMorgan shares tumble on widening 3Q losses

NEW YORK (AP)—JPMorgan Chase & Co. shares tumbled nearly 10 percent Tuesday as the bank's disclosure about escalating losses in its mortgage portfolio set off new concerns about the health of the overall financial sector. An analyst's lowering of the bank's earnings estimates and price target contributed to the decline. JPMorgan Chase plunged $3.88, or 9.3 percent, to close at $38.01. It has traded between $29.94 and $49.95 in the past 12 months. In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission late Monday, the bank said turbulence in the credit markets have caused it to lose about $1.5 billion, after hedges, in its mortgage-backed securities and loans to date in the July-to-September quarter. That's more than the $1.1 billion in losses JPMorgan incurred in its investment bank's portfolio during the second quarter.

USDA raises corn estimates on 'ideal' weather

WASHINGTON (AP)—After months of rising food prices, there may be some relief coming with farmers on track to produce the second largest corn crop and fourth largest soybean crop in history. In its first estimates this year based on field visits and farmer surveys, the U.S. Department of Agriculture sharply raised its estimate Tuesday of corn production and said "nearly ideal" weather has helped Midwestern farmers recover from June's devastating floods. That recovery eventually may lead to lower prices for corn and soybeans, which in turn could provide some relief to meat producers who use the grains for animal feed.

Nation

Lennon's killer is denied parole

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—John Lennon's killer was denied parole for a fifth time Tuesday by a board that said he remains a threat to the public. Mark David Chapman will remain in New York's Attica Correctional Facility for at least two more years for gunning down the former Beatle nearly three decades ago on a Manhattan sidewalk.

Chapman, 53, has been in prison for 27 years since pleading guilty to the murder, which he has said he committed to gain attention. He became eligible for parole in 2000 after serving 20 years of a maximum life sentence.

In a one-page decision issued after Chapman's appearance Tuesday, parole board members said they denied his parole "due to concern for the public safety and welfare."

The parole board said the although Chapman has had a clean disciplinary record since 1994, he told board members during the hearing that he planned and conducted Lennon's killing "with an essentially clear mind."

Considering that, the board said, his release "would not be in the best interest of the community."

A transcript of the 36-minute hearing, conducted by two parole board members, was not immediately available. Chapman, a former maintenance man from Hawaii, fired five shots outside Lennon's apartment building on Dec. 8, 1980, hitting Lennon four times in front of his wife, Yoko Ono, and others.

Ono, who has previously written the parole board arguing against Chapman's release, did not offer any testimony in his latest hearing.

"She was very pleased at the division of parole's decision," said her lawyer, Peter Shukat. He declined to comment further.

Fifty people sent letters and 1,100 others signed a petition opposing his release, while three wrote in urging that he be set free, said Heather Groll, a state Parole Division spokeswoman.

Chapman's next appearance before the board is scheduled for August 2010.

AP: Underground FEMA fuel tanks could leak

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government owns hundreds of underground fuel tanks—many designed for emergencies back in the Cold War—that need to be inspected for leaks of hazardous substances that could be making local water undrinkable.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has known since at least the 1990s that tanks under its supervision around the country could be leaking fuel into soil and groundwater, according to Associated Press interviews and research.

The agency knows of at least 150 underground tanks that need to be inspected for leaks, according to spokeswoman Debbie Wing. FEMA also is trying to determine by September whether an additional 124 tanks are underground or above ground and whether they are leaking.

There has been no documentation of reported leaks or harm to communities from the FEMA tanks, Wing said, although former agency officials and congressional testimony suggest that the federal tanks have long been seen as a problem.

Many of these tanks were built to store 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel and placed around the country at the height of the Cold War back in the 1960s to fuel electric generators that could sustain emergency broadcasts by radio stations in case of a nuclear attack or other catastrophe. Made of steel, the tanks inevitably rust over time and allow fuel to escape.

Steel tanks left in the ground for decades rot like Swiss cheese, said Pat Coyne, director of business development for Environmental Data Resources Inc. Coyne said a joke in the industry is: "What percentage of steel tanks leak? 100 percent!"

More than 360 animals found at filthy Mo. property

ST. LOUIS (AP)—More than 360 domestic and farm animals, many of them emaciated, injured and suffering from mange and parasites, were rescued Tuesday from a filthy southwest Missouri property where they were hoarded and bred, authorities said.

The owner of the property was charged with child endangerment because six children, ages 1 to 11, also had been living in what authorities described as an unbelievable scene: 12 to 15 house trailers stacked to the ceilings with junk, trash and debris, crawling with cockroaches. The only water source was a bunch of garden hoses strung together.

"These homes are not fit for anyone to live in," human or animal, Polk County Sheriff Steve Bruce said.

The 363 animals include more than 70 dogs and more than three dozen cats, plus donkeys, rabbits, ducks, chickens, and exotic fish. The Humane Society of Missouri and Polk County also found 12 to 15 dead rabbits, dogs, cats, and poultry.

Authorities descended upon the property with warrants after the family who owns the land failed to heed warnings last month to begin providing proper care, said Tim Rickey, the Humane Society's director of rescues and investigations.

AP

As an Easton firefighter watches, a chaplain from the Mansfield Fire Department says a prayer by the wreckage of a smoldering small plane that crashed in the parking lot of Hannaford's Supermarket in Easton, Mass., Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008.

Fatal crash third in 3 months for volunteer pilots

EASTON, Mass. (AP)—A small plane carrying a cancer patient to Boston went into a nosedive and crashed Tuesday in a grocery store parking lot, killing all three people on board, authorities said. It was the third fatal crash in as many months for a network of charities that ferry patients to medical treatment.

The single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza went down in the parking lot of a Hannaford store in Easton, about 25 miles south of Boston, about 10:15 a.m., Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters said.

The plane was being operated by Angel Flight Northeast, the regional branch of a group of volunteer pilots who transport people who need medical treatment but can't afford the trip. Amy Camerlin, a spokeswoman for the Northeast organization, said a cancer patient and his wife were being flown to Logan International Airport in Boston so the man could be treated at the nearby Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

"Right now our primary concern is the family," Camerlin said. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family."

Angel Flight organizations make about 20,000 trips annually, and hadn't had a patient killed on a flight in their 25-year-history before June, said Christel Gollnick, CEO of Angel Flight Central, based in Kansas City, Mo.

On June 3, a flight arranged by Angel Flight Central crashed in Iowa City, Iowa, killing a 2-year-old girl who had just been treated for clubfoot and injuring her mother and the pilot. On July 17, a plane flown by an Angel Flight Southeast volunteer crashed shortly after takeoff near Tampa, Fla., killing all three on board, including a 49-year-old cancer patient, a 15-year-old boy and the 81-year-old pilot.

ACROSS THE NATION

Dog guarded owner's body for weeks after suicide

GREELEY, Colo. (AP)—A dog stood guard over her owner's body for up to six weeks after the man committed suicide on the remote northeastern Colorado plains, authorities said. The body of 25-year-old Jake Baysinger of La Salle was found Sunday on the Pawnee National Grasslands about 75 miles northeast of Denver. Cash, his German shepherd, was found beside him, thin and dehydrated but still alive. The dog had apparently survived by eating mice and rabbits, authorities said. The Weld County coroner ruled Baysinger's death a suicide.

Attendant: Osteen's wife eyed cockpit after attack

HOUSTON (AP)—A flight attendant suing the wife of megachurch evangelist Joel Osteen over a preflight confrontation testified Tuesday that she felt compelled to keep an irate Victoria Osteen away from the cockpit door. "I looked in her eyes and realized she was looking at the cockpit. I positioned myself in front of the cockpit," Continental Airlines flight attendant Sharon Brown said. "I still was trying to understand what was going on because it happened so quick. My main concern was I wasn't going to let this lady in the cockpit." Brown testified that Victoria Osteen approached her and was upset and angry before the start of a 2005 flight from Houston to Vail, Colo.

440 years for former Ill. cop convicted of 4 rapes

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. (AP)—A former police sergeant convicted of raping four women was sentenced to 440 years in prison Tuesday. Jeff Pelo, formerly with the Bloomington police, slouched forward in his chair but otherwise didn't react as Judge Robert Freitag issued the sentence. Two victims and their families clapped in the McLean County courtroom. Jurors deliberated for parts of three days in June before convicting the 17-year police veteran of 35 counts, including 25 counts of aggravated sexual assault. Prosecutors used dozens of witnesses and evidence found in Pelo's home to portray him as a man obsessed with violent pornography who paradoxically wanted his victims to like him.

Unabomber objects to cabin display at Newseum

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski wrote a letter to a federal appeals court complaining about a museum exhibit of the tiny cabin where he plotted an 18-year bombing spree. Kaczynski, who is serving a life sentence with no possibility of parole, says the display at the Newseum in Washington runs counter to his victims' wish to limit further publicity about the case. The 10-foot by 12-foot cabin is the largest of approximately 200 artifacts in the "G-Men and Journalists: Top News Stories of the FBI's First Century" exhibit, which opened in June.

Man convicted of murder in boy's starvation death

DENVER (AP)—A man who had agreed to care for his ex-girlfriend's son was convicted Tuesday of starving the 7-year-old to death while forcing him to spend his last few days in a tiny closet. Jurors took just 3 1/2 hours to convict Jon Phillips of first-degree murder, fatal child abuse and evidence tampering in the May 2007 death of Chandler Grafner. Phillips, 27, was immediately sentenced to life plus 48 years in prison. There was no immediate word on whether he would appeal. A coroner said Chandler died of starvation and dehydration after suffering cardiac arrest. He weighed 34 pounds and had numerous cuts and bruises. Prosecutors said the boy was denied food and water and was kept in a closet where he had to urinate and defecate.

Pelosi, Michelle Obama to kick off Dem Convention

DENVER (AP)—Michelle Obama and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will be the featured first-night speakers at the Democratic National Convention, which also will include a videotaped message from Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy. Michelle Obama will be introduced by her brother, Craig Robinson, a former basketball star at Princeton and now coach at Oregon State, on the first night on Aug. 25. Barack Obama's half sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, also will have a role at the convention. Other opening night speakers include Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper and Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, an early Obama supporter, organizers said Tuesday.

Asia

Taliban: 'Open war' in Pakistan as bomb kills 14

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—The Pakistani Taliban declared "open war" Tuesday in response to military offensives in the northwest, saying it staged a bombing that destroyed an air force truck and killed up to 14 people, including a child.

Authorities, meanwhile, investigated whether an insurgent reported killed in one of the military operations was a senior al-Qaida commander. The offensive in the Bajur tribal area reportedly has killed 160 people and caused tens of thousands to flee to camps farther north.

The blast in Peshawar, main city of the restive frontier with Afghanistan, escalated the conflict in a region where the new government is struggling to contain increasingly brazen militants. It dealt another blow to efforts to strike peace deals with hardliners in the Swat Valley and other areas, pacts that U.S. officials contend would strengthen extremists.

"It is an open war between us and them," Pakistani Taliban spokesman Maulvi Umar told The Associated Press. "If these kinds of operations continue against us in Swat and in the tribal areas, we will continue this."

Pakistani officials could not be reached for comment or declined to react to the Taliban's statement, but earlier in the day Interior Ministry chief Rehman Malik said the country would not yield in its attempts to end militancy in its frontier areas.

"It is our firm resolve that we will root out terrorism from Pakistan, and all of our security agencies are working together to achieve this goal," he told the AP.

The bomb hit the air force truck as it crossed a bridge on the outskirts of Peshawar. The blast tore a big hole in the bridge deck and reduced the Mazda truck to a smoldering wreck. The site was littered with debris, blood and a mangled motorcycle.

Olympic opening uses girl's voice, not her face

BEIJING (AP)—One little girl had the looks. The other had the voice. So in a last-minute move demanded by one of China's highest officials, the two were put together for the Olympic opening ceremony, with one lip-synching "Ode to the Motherland" over the other's singing.

The real singer, 7-year-old Yang Peiyi, with her chubby face and crooked baby teeth, wasn't good looking enough for the ceremony, its chief music director told state-owned Beijing Radio.

So the pigtailed Lin Miaoke, a veteran of television ads, mouthed the words with a pixie smile for a stadium of 91,000 and a worldwide TV audience. "I felt so beautiful in my red dress," the tiny 9-year-old told the China Daily newspaper.

Peiyi later told China Central Television that just having her voice used was an honor.

It was the latest example of the lengths the image-obsessed China is taking to create a perfect Summer Games.

In a brief phone interview with AP Television News on Tuesday night, the music director, Chen Qigang, said he spoke about the switch with Beijing Radio "to come out with the truth."

"The little girl is a magnificent singer," Chen said. "She doesn't deserve to be hidden." He said the ceremony's director, film director Zhang Yimou, knew of the change. He declined to speak further about it.

China has been eager to present a flawless Olympics face to the world, shooing thousands of migrant workers from the city and shutting down any sign of protest.

Yang Peiyi

Lin Miaoke

The country's quest for perfection apparently includes its children.

A member of China's Politburo asked for the last-minute change during a live rehearsal shortly before the ceremony, Chen said in the Beijing Radio interview, posted online Sunday night. He didn't name the official.

During the live rehearsal, the Politburo member said Miaoke's voice "must change," Chen said.

"We had to make that choice. It was fair both for Lin Miaoke and Yang Peiyi," Chen told Beijing Radio. "We combined the perfect voice and the perfect performance."

"The audience will understand that it's in the national interest," Chen added.

He said he felt a responsibility to explain to the country what happened but on Tuesday the link to the video on the Beijing Radio Web site no longer worked.

Miaoke's performance Friday night, like the ceremony itself, was an immediate hit. "Nine-year-old Lin Miaoke becomes instant star with patriotic song," the China Daily newspaper headline said.

Zhang, China's most famous film director, was asked at a post-ceremony news conference about the little girl who swung on wires high above the Bird's Nest National Stadium during the performance.

"She is a lovely girl and she sings well," Zhang said, according to a transcript posted on the Beijing organizing committee's web site.

The switch became a hot topic among Chinese and raced across the country's blogosphere.

"The organizers really messed up on this one," Luo Shaoyang, 34, a retail worker in Beijing, said Tuesday. "This is like a voiceover for a cartoon character. Why couldn't they pick a kid who is both cute and a good singer? This damages the reputation of both kids for their future, especially the one lip-synching. Now everyone knows she's a fraud, who cares if she's cute?"

Others disagreed.

"They want the best-looking people to represent the face of China. I don't blame the organizers for picking a prettier-looking kid over the not-so-pretty one," said Xia Xiaotao, 30, an engineer.

"It's the unfortunate reality that these sort of things turn political," said marketing worker Zhang Xinyi, 22.

More violence in western China

KUQA, China (AP)—Attackers jumped from a vehicle and slashed at civilian guards at a roadside checkpoint in China's far west on Tuesday, killing three and extending a surge of violence that has accompanied the Olympic Games in Beijing.

It was the third deadly attack in nine days in Xinjiang, an oil- and gas-rich region on the border with Afghanistan, Pakistan and six Central Asian nations where Islamic separatists have fought the central government for years.

No one has claimed responsibility for the knife attacks. Government officials call them terrorism and insist they have nothing to do with the Olympics. They have not produced any evidence to back up their claims.

AP
In this Oct. 17, 1941 file photo, Japanese wartime leader Hideki Tojo is shown in Tokyo, Japan.

Diary shows Tojo resisted surrender till end

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese World War II leader Hideki Tojo wanted to keep fighting even after U.S. atomic bombs destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, accusing surrender proponents of being "frightened," a newly released diary reveals.

Excerpts from the approximately 20 pages written by Tojo in the final days of the war and held by the National Archives of Japan were published for the first time in several newspapers Tuesday.

"The notes show Tojo kept his dyed-in-the-wool militarist mentality until the very end," said Kazufumi Takayama, the archives curator, who confirmed the accuracy of the published excerpts. "They are extremely valuable."

Tojo, executed in 1948 after being convicted of war crimes by the Allies, was prime minister during much of the war. The notes buttress other evidence that Tojo was fiercely opposed to surrender despite the hopelessness of Japan's war effort.

"We now have to see our country surrender to the enemy without demonstrating our power up to 120 percent," Tojo wrote on Aug. 13, 1945, just two days before Japan gave up. "We are now on a course for a humiliating peace, or rather a humiliating surrender."

Tojo also criticized his colleagues, accusing government leaders of "being scared of enemy threats and easily throwing their hands up." Surrender proponents were "frightened by 'the new type of bomb' and terrified by the Soviet Union's entry into the war," he wrote.

The stridency of the writings is remarkable considering they were penned just days after the U.S. atomic bombs incinerated Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing some 200,000 people and posing the threat of the complete destruction of Japan. At the time, Japan had begun arming children, women and the elderly with bamboo spears, in addition to the aircraft and other forces it had marshaled, to defend the homeland against a ground invasion.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Muslim rebels pull back from RP villages

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Muslim rebel leader warned the Philippine government Wednesday it risks endangering a fragile peace process if it files criminal charges against one of its commanders for fighting that displaced thousands of civilians. Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas, some carrying their dead, withdrew from several occupied southern villages Tuesday following a three-day military offensive. At least two soldiers were killed and 14 wounded.

2 missing in Korean boat-ship collision

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A North Korean fishing boat collided with a South Korean cargo ship early Tuesday, leaving two North Koreans missing. The 658-ton South Korean ship was carrying sand from North Korea when it collided with the fishing boat in waters just north of the sea border, Unification Ministry spokesman Kim Ho-nyeon told reporters. Kim said two of the fishing boat's four crewmen were rescued by the South Korean ship but that the other two remained missing. The exact cause of the collision was under investigation, he said.

Bus accident kills 24 in China's west

BEIJING (AP)—A bus overturned in a mountainous region of China's west, killing 24 students and their parents, state media said late Tuesday. The bus had been traveling on a remote highway in the restive western province of Xinjiang, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. It was about 730 miles from the regional capital of Urumqi when it turned over. Most of the dead were students who were on their way to have health exams necessary for admission to high schools in China's more developed east, the report said. They had already passed entrance tests for the schools. Xinhua did not say what had caused the accident, reporting only that it was under investigation. The students were mostly from the Kyrgyz minority and Han Chinese.

India security forces kill 13 Kashmiri protesters

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Indian forces shot and killed at least 13 Muslim protesters on Tuesday as tens of thousands of people defied a blanket curfew in Indian Kashmir, the bloodiest day in nearly two months of unrest that has rocked this long-troubled Himalayan region. Police and protesters battled each other through clouds of bullets, tear gas and rocks, while in New Delhi, politicians again failed to find a solution to the crisis that threatens to shred the last tenuous threads binding the predominantly Muslim region of Kashmir to Hindu-majority India. Angry Muslims took to the streets of cities and towns across Kashmir in spite of the first total curfew imposed on the region in 18 years to protest Monday's killing of prominent separatist leader, Sheikh Abdul Aziz, and four others.

Cambodian tribunal indicts Khmer Rouge jailer

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Cambodia's genocide tribunal formally indicted a former prison chief of the country's notorious Khmer Rouge on Tuesday, paving the way for a historic trial. The U.N.-assisted tribunal said in a statement Tuesday that its investigating judges issued the indictment upon ending their investigation of Kaing Guek Eav—also known as Duch—whose Phnom Penh prison was used as a torture center. Duch, charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes, is the first suspect to be indicted by the tribunal. He and four other former senior members of the Khmer Rouge, who held power in the late 1970s, were taken into custody last year. The radical policies of the communist group are considered responsible for the deaths of some 1.7 million people from starvation, disease, overwork and execution. No senior member of the group has ever stood trial for the atrocities.

World

Russia calls halt to 5-day invasion of Georgia

US, *allies weigh punishment for Russia*

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scrambling to find ways to punish Russia for its invasion of pro-Western Georgia, the United States and its allies are considering expelling Moscow from an exclusive club of wealthy nations and have scrapped plans for an upcoming joint NATO-Russia military exercise, Bush administration officials said Tuesday.

But with scant leverage in the face of an emboldened Moscow, Washington and its friends have been forced to face the uncomfortable reality that their options are limited to mainly symbolic measures, such as boycotting Russian-hosted meetings and events, that may have little or no long-term impact on Russia's behavior, the officials said.

With the situation on the ground still unclear after Russian President Dmitri Medvedev on Tuesday ordered a halt to military action in Georgia, U.S. officials were focused primarily on confirming a cease-fire and attending to Georgia's urgent humanitarian needs following five days of fierce fighting, including Russian attacks on civilian targets.

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—Declaring "the aggressor has been punished," the Kremlin ordered a halt Tuesday to Russia's devastating assault on Georgia - five days of air and ground attacks that left homes in smoldering ruins and uprooted 100,000 people. Both sides accepted the general outlines of a cease-fire plan, but Georgia complained hours after the Russian endorsement that bombs and shells were still falling.

Georgia President Mikhail Saakashvili said Russia's aim all along was not to gain control of two disputed provinces but to "destroy" the smaller nation, a former Soviet state and current U.S. ally.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, speaking in Moscow, said Georgia had paid enough for its attack on South Ossetia, a separatist region along the Russian border with close ties to Russia

AP

A Georgian man inspects a destroyed building in the village of Ruisi near the Georgian breakaway province of South Ossetia, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008.

"The aggressor has been punished and suffered very significant losses. Its military has been disorganized," Medvedev said. Still, the president ordered his defense minister at a televised Kremlin meeting: "If there are any emerging hotbeds of resistance or any aggressive actions, you should take steps to destroy them."

Hours later, Saakashvili told reporters that he backed the cease-fire plan negotiated by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, which calls for both sides to move back to their positions before fighting erupted.

Saakashvili said that he accepted the "general principles" of the deal but said he saw no reason to sign it as it was only a "political document." Hundreds, perhaps thousands, were believed to have died since Georgia launched its crackdown on South Ossetia on Thursday, drawing the punishing response from its much larger northern neighbor.

There appeared to be signs fo Russian forces attacking Georgian targets within hours of Medvedev's televised order, if not after.

An Associated Press reporter saw 135 Russian military vehicles headed toward the Kodori Gorge in Abkhazia.

Iraq contracts have cost at least $85B

AP

In this Sept. 20, 2007 file photo, an Iraqi traffic policeman inspects a car destroyed four days ago by a Blackwater security detail in al-Nisoor Square in Baghdad, Iraq.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Military contracts in the Iraq theater have cost taxpayers at least $85 billion, and when it comes to providing security, they might not be any cheaper than using military personnel, according to a report released Tuesday.

The Congressional Budget Office report comes on the heels of increased scrutiny of contractors in the last year, some of whom have been investigated in connection with shooting deaths of Iraqis and the accidental electrocutions of U.S. troops.

The United States has relied more heavily on contractors in Iraq than in any other war to provide services ranging from food service to guarding diplomats. About 20 percent of funding for operations in Iraq has gone to contractors, the report said.

Currently, there are at least 190,000 contractors in Iraq, a ratio of about one contractor per U.S. service member, the report says.

The study does not include monetary figures for 2008, so the total paid to contractors for work in the Iraq theater since the invasion of Iraq in 2003 is probably much higher. If spending for contractors continues at about the same rate, by the end of the year, an estimated $100 billion will have been paid to military contractors for operations in Iraq.

Iraqi governor escapes injury in suicide blast

BAGHDAD (AP)—A female suicide bomber blasted an Iraqi convoy north of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing two people but narrowly missing a provincial governor in the second suicide attack by a woman in Diyala province in as many days.

Gov. Raad Rashid al-Tamimi ordered an indefinite curfew in Diyala's provincial capital of Baqouba, where the attack occurred.

It happened a day after Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government announced a weeklong suspension of military operations in Diyala to give militants a chance to surrender.

Al-Tamimi and the commander of Iraqi ground forces, Gen. Ali Ghaidan, were traveling to a meeting of the provincial council in Baqouba when the woman detonated her explosives as the vehicles approached, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

Neither the governor nor the general was injured, they said.

The attack could have been more devastating, but the attacker triggered her explosives prematurely—possibly because she feared guards had spotted her, officials said.

Iraqi police initially said the bomber was a man. But the U.S. military in northern Iraq said American soldiers at the site had confirmed the attacker was a woman.

On Monday, a female suicide bomber struck a checkpoint at a market in Baqouba, killing one policeman and wounding 14 other people, including nine police.

Also Tuesday, the U.S. military announced that an American Marine was killed by small arms fire in Anbar province. Two other Marines were wounded in the Sunday attack, the military said.

Diyala, stretching northeast from Baghdad to the Iranian border, has proven among the most difficult of Iraq's 18 provinces to pacify, in part because of its complex mixture of Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds.

Confusion reigns in Zimbabwe talks

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—A third day of talks over Zimbabwe's governance wound up on a conflicting note Tuesday amid reports that President Robert Mugabe and the leader of an opposition faction had reached a power-sharing agreement.

Shortly after the talks concluded, officials from Mugabe's party and the main opposition movement said the two sides had agreed on the plan, but a spokesman for the splinter group later denied the claim.

The reported agreement excludes Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the main Movement for Democratic Change. He won the first round of presidential elections in March but boycotted the runoff to protest widespread violence against opposition supporters.

Such an agreement would likely prompt protests from the West and some African governments for allowing the 84-year-old Mugabe to cling to his increasingly autocratic 28-year reign that has driven his once thriving nation to economic ruin.

South African President Thabo Mbeki, who mediated the talks, did not comment to reporters as the third day of talks concluded.

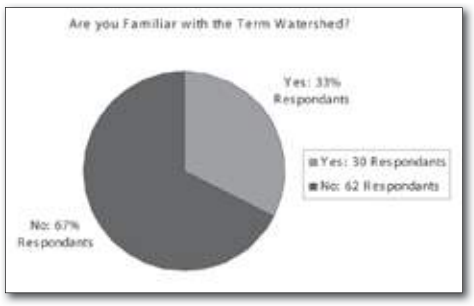
But Welshman Ncube, spokesman for the splinter faction of the Movement for Democratic Change, denied reports that his leader, Arthur Mutambara, had signed an accord with Mugabe.

Environment

An internship on watershed management

By GEORGIA ANN SANCHEZ CABRERA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Greetings to all the people of the CNMI. My name is Georgia Ann Sanchez Cabrera and I am the proud daughter of Veronica Sanchez Cabrera and George Camacho Cabrera. I am currently working as an intern at Division of Environmental Quality. The focus of my internship is Watershed Management and my mentors are Kathleen Herrmann, Reina Camacho and Fran Castro.



I am really glad I was selected as one of 10 students for this summer's internship. I can honestly say that I am having a great time working at the division.

One of the main goals of my internship is to develop an Island Stewardship Booklet for Laulau Bay Homeowners. In this project I am assigned to make a booklet based upon a Hawaii Island Stewardship Guide and incorporate the results from the Lau Lau Bay "Know your Watershed" survey. I have been learning to use a new program, Adobe Photoshop, which makes it a bit easier for me to publish a booklet because you can select the size of how small or big you want the booklet to be. So far, all I have to do now is look over it once again before I do anything else on it, and before I turn it into my mentor to take a look at it. The booklet will be distributed to the people living in the Laulau Bay Watershed when completed.

I've been assigned a variety of different projects for this summer's internship and so far everything is going great. The first project is to become familiar with basic principles of watershed planning and take an online quiz to see how well I've done and what I've learned so far. The website was http://www.cwp.org/whats_a_watershed.htm. Check out the quiz and see how well you do!

The second project assigned to me was to complete the USEPA Watershed Academy web training, which also consists of six Modules: Introductory/Overview, Watershed Ecology, Watershed Change, Analysis and Planning, Management Practices, and Community/Social/Water Law. Each module required study and reading and finally a quiz, testing me to see what I have learned so far. I was able to complete these requirements without a problem.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Georgia Cabrera, DEQ intern for the Watershed Management, reads Earth Day Hooray! a book about young students taking the initiative to cleanup the neighborhood park by recycling aluminum cans.

My third project was to analyze the results from the Laulau Bay Survey called, "Know Your Watershed". For this project I was able to put all the results into the Microsoft Excel for a better understanding. Some interesting data includes:

For instance, 33 percent understand the term Watershed and DEQ is working to increase it to a 100 percent.

Working as an intern has been really interesting. Part of our internship was to participate in some group activities, one of which is the Reef Flat Monitoring. I was able to attend one of the Reef Flat Monitoring events at Bird Island. Depending on the size of the group, they break everyone into four different groups. Each monitoring volunteer was given the chance to go underwater to see what type of corals, sea grass and other creatures live in the ocean.

The other group activity is the Library Story Hour. It's an activity where each intern visits the library and reads a storybook to children. We read books focused on the environment or resource conservation as we are trying to promote these concepts. When I did story hour, I got the opportunity to read the book, Hooray Earth Day, and meet the little kids who take their time to go to the library to read books and study. Story hour gave me the opportunity to expose myself to our very important role at DEQ, which is public outreach/community engagement.

We also participate in a weekly scientific article discussion where we are given an article to read and summarize. The interns then discuss the article as a group with one of the agency biologists.

Lastly we were all assigned to do an internship report. By the end of the internship, we are required to write a report about out internship and create a PowerPoint presentation, which will be presented to the directors and mentors.

As an intern, I am pleased to say that it has been an honor working with Division of Environmental Quality and having to stop will make me sad. However, thanks to working here at DEQ, it helped me be a part of the Micronesia Challenge.

I am currently a student at Northern Marianas College majoring in Liberal Arts. With my experience as an intern, I am more confident and hope to obtain a degree in Environmental Science or Natural Resource Management. As there are so many things that I have learned, I want to continue learning more about our environment and share my knowledge and experiences with others as the years go by and with the young generation.

Working at DEQ has been really amazing!

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP

Every litter bit hurts

Which is considered litter?

a. duck b. banana tree c. candy wrapper

Answer: C. almost anything you throw on the ground and leave there is litter (yes, including banana peels and betel nut).

It's never alright to litter at an already littered site. In addition to the Department of Public Safety, you can report littering activities to:
Mayor's Office
Department of Public Works
Department of Public Health and Environmental Services
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Coastal Resources Management
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Marianas Visitors Authority

Division of Environmental Quality These government agencies have certified litter control apprehending officers. This means they can cite persons who litter.

In addition to reporting litterbugs, you can take responsibility for your own trash and stop littering. By simply disposing of garbage in proper containers, you are doing your job to not only keep our islands clean. Since not all picnic sites have trash bins or pick-ups, plan on taking your garbage with you. Inform and involve family and friends.

Remember, litter hurts people, animals, and is unsightly.

Have a green picnic

(COCO) – While summer slowly comes to a close, our island picnics will continue on. Here's a few ways to keep the environment in mind as we soak up the sun and take an ocean dip.

1. Know Before You Go

Like it or not, beaches close for a variety of reasons. The water may be polluted from a sewage run-off. There could be a nearby oil spill. To find beach water quality reports for Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Managaha check out www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 or http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm .

2. Beachwear: The Ultimate Reuse

Beach clothes are going to get dirty. You're lying in sand and swimming in water filled with all kinds of plants and animals. Instead of buying brand new apparel for your beach excursions, wear some old clothes you've been meaning to throw out. Perfect beach attire can be t-shirts filled with holes, promotional giveaway hats, etc.

3. Keep Dogs on a Short Leash

Dogs enjoy playing in the water and many of us bring them to the beach. However, dog droppings do not belong there. They are a source of E Coli and other bacteria that can close beaches while also causing health hazards to swimmers. Pick up after your pets.

4. Stay Away from Stormdrains

You may not think that water from our village streets ends up in the ocean, but it does. When streets get wet, traces of motor oil, pesticides and animal waste go down these drains. Swimming near storm outlets gives you direct access to this dirty water. Stay out in the open where these traces are diluted.

5. Sail Your Cares Away

If you're looking to spend the day at sea, rent a sail boat or wind sail over a motor boat or a jet ski. Sail-powered boats use renewable energy (wind) and are less likely to pollute the surrounding water. If your transportation does have a motor, practice clean boating.

6. Drink Plenty of (Fresh) Water

Make sure you stay hydrated while you're at the beach. But that means bringing water from home, not drinking it from the ocean. Ocean water is full of salt (and who knows what else), so it will do the opposite of hydrating you.

7. Take Only Photographs

The beach is filled with all kinds of fascinating "souvenirs." Rainbow-lined shells. Slippery seaweed. Keep in mind that all of these things are part of a local ecosystem. If you're out snorkeling or scouting tide pools, avoid the desire to touch things or pick things up. This is also a great way to avoid bites and stings.

8. Leave Only Footprints

On a windy day, it's easy for trash to blow into the nearby water, where it can harm sea life. Make sure all your garbage ends up in the appropriate place. Recycle your bottles and cans!

Source: www.earth911.org

Control erosion, apply for earthmoving permits

The Division of Environmental Quality is reminding all residents, government departments and agencies, municipal governments, and private businesses of their earthmoving responsibilities during the "heavy rain and typhoon season."

Entities planning to conduct earthmoving or vegetation clearing activities must apply for and obtain a "One-Start Earthmoving and Erosion Control Permit" at DEQ. The activities that require an Earthmoving and Erosion Control permit are:

- Land clearing to build your home or business, or for farming, using chainsaw, machetes, tractor, etc.;
- Use of heavy equipment (backhoe, pay-loader, bull-dozer, etc);
- Digging the foundation of your new or existing home or business;
- Clearing for new road access; and
- Backfilling your property.

The permit is required as per the Earthmoving and Erosion Control Regulations - CR Vol. 15, No. 10, Oct. 15, 1993 and the CNMI Environmental Protection Act, Public Law 3-23, 2 CMC §§ 3101 to 3134, and 1 CMC §§ 2601 to2605.

Heavy rains and typhoon seasons affecting the CNMI islands for the next several months could compound the consequences of land clearing. Engaging in earthmoving activities without a DEQ Earthmoving and Erosion Control permit is detrimental to the Commonwealth's potable and coastal waters.

The One-Start Earthmoving & Erosion Control Permitting process is coordinated by the DEQ in partnership with Coastal Resources Management Office, Division of Fish & Wildlife, and Historic Preservation Office.

If in doubt regarding property clearing or related activities, call the Wastewater, Earthmoving and Erosion Control Branch at 664-8500 for more detail information or you can call for appointment. Permit application forms are available at the DEQ Office, 1st Floor, Gualo Rai Center, Chalan Pale Arnold, from Monday to Friday, except holidays from 8am to 4pm only. ***(DEQ)***

Life & Style

8-year-old guitar wiz has reason to play the blues

ELKHORN, Wis. (AP)—When Tallan "T-Man" Latz was 5, he saw Joe Satriani playing guitar on TV. "I turned around to my dad and said, 'That's exactly what I want to do.'"

Three years and countless hours of practicing later, 8-year-old Tallan is a blues guitar prodigy. He's played in bars and clubs, including the House of Blues in Chicago, and even jammed with Les Paul and Jackson Browne. He has a summer of festivals scheduled and has drawn interest from venues worldwide.

And what, you might ask, would a kid not even in the third grade have the blues about? The state of Wisconsin for one, and some possibly jealous older musicians for another.

An anonymous e-mail sent to state officials complained that Tallan was too young to perform in taverns and nightclubs because of state child labor laws. His booking agent even got an anonymous letter threatening her with death if she keeps booking him.

When Tallan's father read him the state's letter saying he couldn't play clubs anymore (he can still play festivals), the boy's response - like his music - seemed beyond his years.

"He goes, 'It's not how many times you get knocked down but it's how many times you get back up and go forward,' Carl Latz said his son told him. "And I told him that's exactly what this is all about and if nothing else this letter just taught you a life lesson."

The lesson can be stiff: Each day he performs, the employer can be fined $25 to $1,000 and the parent from $10 to $250

Jennifer Ortiz of the state Equal Rights Division said her agency has a responsibility to enforce the law once it becomes aware of a violation.

"Well, the law prohibits it, and the Legislature enacted the laws to protect the health, safety and welfare of all children." Latz, who also is Tallan's manager, has asked a legislator for help changing the law but it's unclear whether any action will be taken.

Latz received the letter a few days before Tallan was to perform at Lil Downtown Lounge in suburban Milwaukee, where club co-owner Michelle Boche said the boy always packed the place when he sat in with other musicians.

Latz claims that two weeks before getting the letter he overheard local blues guitarist Jammin' Jimmy, whose real name is James Kemeny, say Tallan shouldn't be in a bar and he was going to turn him in.

AP

Tallan "T-Man" Latz performs Monday, June 30, 2008, at Summerfest in Milwaukee. A blues guitar prodigy, the 8-year-old has played in bars and clubs, including the House of Blues in Chicago, and even jammed with Les Paul and Jackson Browne.

Kemeny, who's been playing for 44 years, denied badmouthing Tallan.

"It seems totally unbelievable that somebody would even go to that extreme to send a letter to somebody, let alone looking to find something about child labor laws," Kemeny said.

Boche said she has received backlash from musicians and area bar owners because she supports Tallan. Some have tried to take patrons away, she said. Some even called in fake incidents to police, causing them to look for guns or underage drinkers, she said.

"If my doors close and I never open again and this boy becomes successful, then I will be the happiest person in the world," she said.

Tallan's agent, Sharon Pomaville, said she received a threatening letter June 2 warning her to stop booking the boy. She thinks he's a local musician and believes he's harmless. Deputies came to her house, but she didn't want to pursue the case.

Greg Koch, 42, an internationally known guitarist and clinician for Fender Musical Instruments, called the backlash despicable.

He said most 8-year-olds don't have the strength or attention span to pursue guitar or can't endure the calluses.

"It's strange that a kid at this age would glean onto this particular kind of music and show the intensity and kind of the ability to function as kind of 8-year-old blues guy," he said.

Brad Tolinski, editor-in-chief of Guitar World magazine, said kid guitar prodigies are rare, with one emerging perhaps every four or five years.

"It would be unusual to find an 8-year-old who can play Joe Satriani licks," he said.

Carl Latz said there's no explanation for Tallan's blues connection other than he seems to have an old soul.

"I've had more people tell me, they say 'It's a kid's body but it has a 70-year-old dude inside,'" Carl Latz said.

Tallan, whose heroes are Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan, has 13 guitars and endorsements from at least nine companies to use their equipment. He can read music but plays mostly from memory.

He has two bands—one with veterans called T-Man's Blues Project and another with 16-and-younger bandmates called Tallan "The T-Man" Latz and the Young Guns. He also sings and plays drums, harmonica, bass and piano

Tallan said he likes to play guitar to "put smiles on people's faces" when they are having a bad day.

"It sounds awesome," he said. "I think it's so much you can do on the guitar."

He knows 30 to 40 songs and someday hopes to write his own. It was his idea to start playing in public.

"He drags me around," his dad said. "I don't drag him around."

Tallan said the problems he's faced have doing nothing to dampen his ambition to be a blues rock star when he grows up. Just the opposite, in fact.

"Because I got more inspiration, I got more sadness in me," Tallan said. "I'm just feelin' it."

Edwards' future political impact lost with affair

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—John Edwards lost a prime-time speaking slot at the Democratic National Convention. He likely blew a chance at a possible Cabinet post in a Barack Obama administration. And he may very well have lost any hope of being the voice for America's poor and forgotten.

Edwards' infidelity to his cancer-stricken wife and the lies leading up to his confession have sent him into the political wilderness, delaying, if not destroying, any chance of regaining a place on the political stage.

"No one in the Democratic Party would want to be publicly associated with him," said Merle Black, a political science professor at Emory University in Atlanta. "Edwards is really damaged goods at this point."

How long he will stay in political exile is anyone's guess. Other politicians have rehabilitated themselves, but the way the story broke and continuing questions about whether he's told the complete truth could drag the scandal out.

It already appears to be silencing his own voice in the Democratic Party and has drained goodwill and trust among some activists, many of whom gave their heart and soul to him and his cause.

Edwards soared on to the national stage within two years of getting elected to the Senate in 1998, and seemed to have everything in place to remain a major player on the U.S. political and economic stage, win or lose the White House.

First, he was on Al Gore's short list as a running mate in 2000. His presidential campaign in 2004, which led to his vice presidential nomination on the ticket with John Kerry, focused on "Two Americas," a reflection, he said, of the growing divide between rich and poor. Poised for a second presidential bid, Edwards' message became even more populist heading toward 2008.

He won acclaim from union leaders and social justice advocates who worked with him on picket lines, the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans and Appalachia—and who hoped his good work for the cause would open doors to future runs for office.

Edwards has always had a compelling personal story: growing up in a middle-class textile family in rural South Carolina before becoming a successful trial lawyer and millionaire. But he was hardly a traditional populist, bedeviled during his latest campaign by tales of $400 haircuts and reminders of his 102-acre estate—complete with basketball gym and 28,000-square-foot mansion—outside of Chapel Hill.

"He was raised as one of us—the son of a mill worker, he always said," remembered Ken Roos of the Service Employees International Union

AP

In this Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008, file photo, Democratic presidential hopeful former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., right, and his wife Elizabeth arrive at a campaign rally in Ames, Iowa.

in New Hampshire, which endorsed Edwards for president. "Fighting poverty and providing health care for everybody ... I hope those are still always his beliefs."

His work didn't pay off with the Democratic nomination, but he exited the race with a promise that the party's eventual nominee would carry on his fight.

Edwards said last week when he acknowledged the affair that he still wanted to continue a life of service for those whose "voices never get heard."

"This is the cause of my life," Edwards said Jan. 30 as he suspended his campaign in New Orleans, among homes being rebuilt in the hurricane-ravaged city.

Obama, the presumptive Democratic nominee, promised Edwards a prime-time speaking role at the Democratic National Convention later this month when Edwards endorsed him to talk about economics and poverty, a Democratic official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, told The Associated Press.

But it became clear to Edwards he would be left off the convention schedule in recent weeks as questions grew following a tabloid story about the affair with Rielle Hunter, a woman who made a handful of videos about his campaign, the official said.

Edwards was also being considered as a possible Obama running mate, a congresswoman said two months ago, though Edwards said he never believed that was serious.

Discussion of a Cabinet position, such as attorney general, is all but over now.

"Had that not happened, I think he would have made an absolutely incredible secretary of labor," said Harris Raynor, Southern regional director of UNITE HERE, a union representing textile workers, hotel employees and restaurant workers nationwide. "We would have loved to see him play a prominent role in government."

Edwards worked with union and advocacy groups, some of whom would become his strongest supporters. Edwards told a crowd in Iowa last year he had walked union picket lines, rallied for labor and worked with employees more than 200 times.

Edwards and his wife, Elizabeth, also traveled through pockets of poverty to put a face on the more 30 million people defined as the working poor.

"He was the first person since Lyndon Johnson to address it in a meaningful way," said Todd Mayo, 38, of Auxier, Ky., who heard Edwards speak during an eight-state anti-poverty tour in July 2007. "He was very sincere about wanting to cure the problems."

Copy of Beatles contract for sale in London

LONDON (AP)—Brian Epstein's copy of his management contract with The Beatles, a pact that proved to be worth millions, is being offered for sale in London next month.

The four-page document, signed Oct. 1, 1962, by John Lennon, George Harrison, Paul McCartney and Richard Starkey—Ringo Starr's real name—carries an estimated price of $480,000. The Fame Bureau auction house said Tuesday it had scheduled the sale for Sept. 4 at the Idea Generation Gallery.

The contract, also signed by Harold Hargreaves Harrison and James McCartney on behalf of their underage sons, gave Epstein a 25 percent cut of the band's earnings, provided they made more than $400 each per week.

"The word is that he made more money than the Beatles did during his period of time," said Ted Owen, managing director of The Fame Bureau.

He said the contract was offered for sale by a northern England businessman and Beatles collector who has asked to remain anonymous.

The contract marked the moment when all the pieces were in place for a global outbreak of Beatlemania.

Epstein first heard of The Beatles when a customer went to his record store in Liverpool asking for "My Bonnie," in which the group backed singer Tony Sheridan.

After arranging to hear the group perform at the Cavern Club in Liverpool, Epstein was impressed.

"They were fresh, honest and had, what I thought, a sort of presence and star quality, whatever that is," Epstein later recalled.

Epstein had been guiding the group since December 1961, and had secured a recording contract with EMI. With a nudge from producer George Martin, Epstein fired drummer Pete Best in August 1962 and brought Starr into the group, and their first big hit, "Love Me Do," was ready for release.

"Brian put us in suits and all that and we made it very, very big," Lennon once said. "But we sold out, you know.

"We were in a daydream till he came along. We had no idea what we were doing."

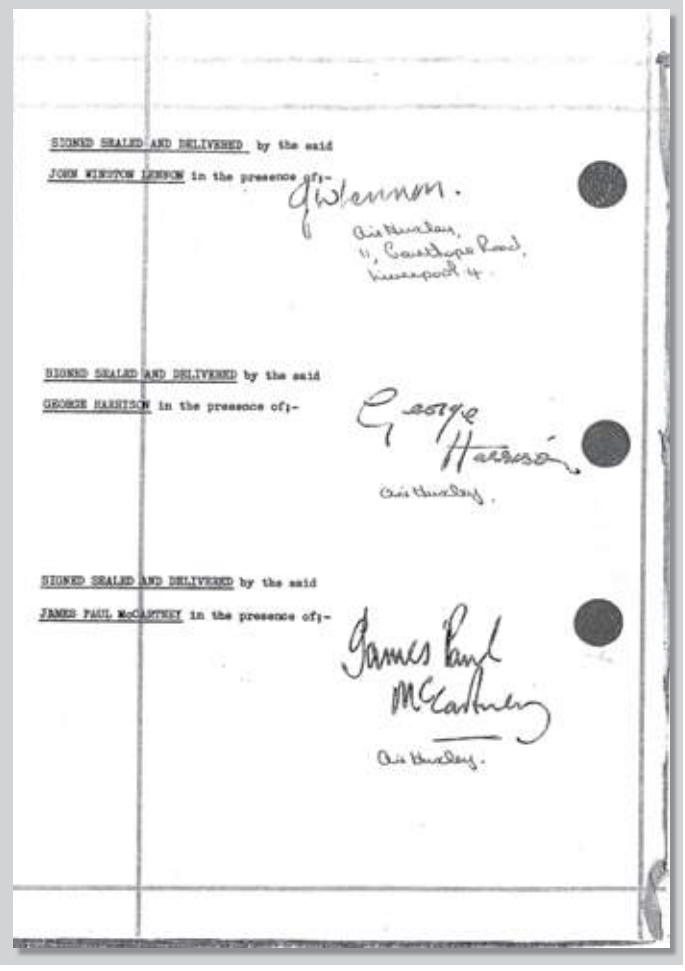
Epstein died from a drug overdose in 1967, at age 32.

According to the Brian Epstein Web site, http://www.brianepstein.com , a first, five-year contract was signed by the group on Jan. 24, 1962, but Epstein didn't sign it.

Epstein managed several other successful acts from Liverpool, including Gerry & The Pacemakers, Billy J. Kramer & The Dakotas and Cilla Black.

Also up for auction: a Bechstein grand piano that can be heard on The Beatles' "White Album" and "Hey Jude."

Owen estimated the piano will sell for $570,000 or more.


SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED by the said JOHN WINSTON LENNON in the presence of:-
SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED by the said GEORGE HARRISON in the presence of:-
SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED by the said JAMES PAUL McCARTNEY in the presence of:-

Undated image provided by thefamebureau.com, of Brian Epstein's copy of his management contract with The Beatles, a pact that proved to be worth millions, which is being offered for sale in London next month.

AP

Britney in MTV ads, but not confirmed for VMAs

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney Spears may get a shot at redemption during this year's MTV Video Music Awards.

Widely panned for her glazed-over performance at last year's show, Spears is now in negotiations with MTV to make an appearance at the Sept. 7 ceremony, a spokesperson for MTV said Tuesday. While the network said nothing has been finalized—only Lil Wayne and the Jonas Brothers are confirmed so far—Spears is already appearing in promotional ads for the telecast.

"This is for real," Spears tells VMA host Russell Brand in one of two spots for the VMAs, which were taped last week, according to MTV. In the ads, Spears, dressed in black with blonde hair cascading down her shoulders, giggles as she and Brand banter flirtatiously. She looks sexy, confident and fit—the antithesis of her appearance at last year's ceremony.

Spears' 2007 performance was heavily hyped to be her comeback after months of negative publicity and erratic behavior. Though her disheveled look and bleary routine during "Gimme More" only became the new benchmark for Spears' decline, it was also the most talked about performance not only of the show, but perhaps the year.

Since then, Spears, 26, has appeared to have cleaned up her act. Her father James has been in control of her personal and professional matters as her legal conservator, and she drew high ratings and reviews when she made guest appearances on CBS' "How I Met Your Mother" earlier this year.

Spears is working on a new album. If she were to perform, it would surely be a ratings bonanza; last year's VMA's was up 23 percent over the 2006 show.

Elvis+Priscilla+Barbie: New must-have item for fans

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The marriage didn't last all that long, but for the Elvis Presley faithful, the wedding day is special still. And now, Elvis fans have the official, Graceland-approved Elvis and Priscilla wedding dolls to remind them of that magical time.

"This is just another way he's making history, and we want to be part of it," said Angel Durham, who waited all night outside a Graceland souvenir shop to be the first to hand over $65 for a boxed set of the dolls, the newest additions to Mattel's Barbie series.

Durham, 38, of Whitney, Texas, was at the front of about 150 Elvis fans lined up to witness the official unveiling of the dolls, staged as part of Graceland's annual weeklong fan pilgrimage to mark the anniversary of Presley's death on Aug. 16, 1977.

Brenda Moore of Bentonville, Ark., invested less time in getting her dolls but paid out a lot more money for a one-and-only set of dolls signed by Priscilla Presley.

Moore, 59, offered the high bid of $6,800 when the autographed box set was auctioned to the fans as a fundraiser for Presley Place, an apartment building in Memphis for homeless families.

"I was so nervous, I don't know if I saw it really well, but I think it's a good likeness," Moore said. "They showed them yesterday and I looked at them online. I was planning to buy them, but never dreamed we would do this."

Moore, a claims manager at Wal-Mart's corporate headquarters, said she and husband Mitchell believe the money is for a good cause.

"Presley Place, where the money will go, we contribute to them every year," she said. "Also, I want that on display in my living room in a curio cabinet."

The dolls, with faces painted to look like Presley and his bride, were designed from photos of the wedding. The groom sports a black paisley tuxedo while the bride wears a white beaded gown and rhinestone tiara.

The couple married in Las Vegas on May 1, 1967, but had split up by early 1972. They formally separated in July 1972 and were divorced in October 1973.

Durham said she got in place Monday night to await her shot at one of the 190 boxed sets Graceland was offering with special unveiling-day stamps. The 40,000 other sets sent to retailers later this year won't have those stamps.

Fans gathered for the unveiling were treated to slices of wedding cake and orange juice served in champagne glasses.

Mattel also issued an Elvis and Barbie doll set in the late 1990s.

Elvis and Priscilla Barbie dolls are displayed for sale at Graceland in Memphis, Tenn., Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008.

AP

Study: Women rise in state government leadership

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The number of women in state government leadership positions is on the rise, with the percentage nearly mirroring their representation in the general population in six states, a study has found.

Of the governor-appointed posts in all 50 states last year, 35 percent were held by women, up from 28 percent a decade earlier, according to the report by the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society at the University at Albany. Researchers looked at the number of women named to top-ranking policy positions such as heads of state agencies and senior advisers and found that while women remain generally underrepresented, they've made significant strides in some key areas.

"The most important thing is the fact that in 36 of the states, women are doing better than they were in 1997, and by better I mean as a comparison of the percentage of women in leadership posts compared with the percentage of women in the state," said Judith Saidel, the lead author and the center's director.

Saidel said the rising numbers could be attributed in part to the general strides women have made in the private sector and academia, along with a growing number of women in high-level career public servant positions who are now in line for promotions.

In Alaska, Connecticut, Montana, Nevada, Vermont and Washington, the number of women in senior policy positions is roughly even with their percentage of the general population in those states, the study found.

Although three of those states - Alaska, Connecticut and Washington - also have female governors, the research didn't show that women governors are generally more inclined than men to appoint female staff and advisers, Saidel said.

Montana is the only state where the percentage of women in top state government positions—54.5—actually exceeds that of women in the state's overall population—50.2.

Three neighboring states—South Dakota, Wyoming and Idaho—are at the other end of the scale. They are among just four states—the other is Louisiana—where women hold fewer than a quarter of the top state jobs. In South Dakota, only about about one in every six state leadership jobs were held by women. Cara Eastwood, press secretary for Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal, said Wyoming faces a challenge finding qualified people to fill top jobs because the state's economy is booming and government has to compete with high-paying private sector employers in hiring. But she noted that the majority of senior policy advisers on the Democratic governor's staff are women.

'40-Year-Old Virgin' actor is charged in stabbing

SAN DIEGO (AP)—An actor who appeared in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" was charged with attempted murder Tuesday after police said he stabbed his former girlfriend more than 20 times.

Shelley Malil, 43, remained in custody on $2 million bail. He was arrested late Monday as he left a train in Oceanside, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department said.

Malil was charged late Monday with attempted murder and was scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday in Vista, north of San Diego, said Paul Levikow, a spokesman for the San Diego County District Attorney's office.

Authorities confirmed the victim's identity as Kendra Beebe. According to her Facebook page, she is a 35-year-old mother of two who works as an insurance broker in Carlsbad, a coastal suburb.

She was listed in critical condition Monday, according to the San Diego Sheriff's Department. Spokeswoman Jan Caldwell said Tuesday she had no update on Beebe's condition.

"Malil and the victim had apparently been in a dating relationship which recently ended," the Sheriff's Department said in a statement.

Malil's agent, Mark Measure of Abrams Artist Agency, declined to comment.

Malil, who lives in the Los Angeles suburb of Sherman Oaks, had taken the train to the San Diego area to meet his attorney, who had joined the actor's family and friends in persuading him to turn himself in, deputies said.

Deputies found the victim Sunday night while responding to reports of screams for help and breaking glass in San Marcos, about 15 miles east of Oceanside.

Malil appeared in the Budweiser "What are you doing?" commercial that aired during the 2001 Super Bowl, a spinoff of the "Whassup" spots from the year before. He also played a co-worker, Haziz, to comedian Steve Carell's title character in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," and has appeared in dozens of TV shows including "NYPD Blue" and "Scrubs."

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★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

Tropic Thunder
Thursday 1:10 4:20 7:15
Ben Stiller, Jack Black
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
A group of self-absorbed actors set out to make the biggest war film ever. After ballooning costs (and the out of control egos of the pampered cast) threaten to shut down the movie, the frustrated director refuses to stop shooting, leading his cast deep into the jungles of Southeast Asia for "increased realism," where they inadvertently encounter real bad guys.

★ ★ ★

Pineapple Express
Thursday 1:25 4:30 7:25
James Franco, Seth Rogen
Action, Comedy, Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
Process server Dale Denton has a grudging business relationship with the laconic Saul Silver, deigning to visit only to purchase Saul's primo product—a rare new strain of pot called Pineapple Express. But when Dale becomes the only witness to a murder by a crooked cop and the city's most dangerous drug lord, he panics and dumps the Pineapple Express at the scene. When it's traced back to him, Dale and Saul run for their lives—and they quickly discover that they're not just suffering from weed-fueled paranoia.

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
Thursday 1:05 4:15 7:05
Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Doomed by a wronged sorceress, Zi Yuan, to spend eternity in suspended animation, China's ruthless Dragon Emperor and his 10,000 warriors have laid forgotten for eons, entombed in clay as a vast, silent Terracotta Army. But when dashing adventurer AlexO'Connell is tricked into awakening the ruler from eternal slumber, the reckless young archaeologist must seek the help of the only people who know more than he does about taking down the undead: his parents.

The Step Brothers
Thursday 1:15 4:05 7:10
Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly
Comedy • Rated R

Mamma Mia
Thursday 1:20 4:10 7:20
Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan
Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated PG 13

Dark Knight
Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Hancock
Thursday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Will Smith, Charlize Theron
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

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In this Aug. 3, 2008 file photo, actress Vanessa Hudgens arrives at the Teen Choice Awards in Universal City, Calif.

AP

Vanessa Hudgens sued for $5M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A music producer has sued Vanessa Hudgens for $5 million, claiming the actress and her father have repeatedly violated a contract and failed to pay him his share of her earnings.

Hudgens, one of the stars of Disney's successful "High School Musical" series, entered into an agreement with producer Johnny Vieira when she was still a minor, the lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday, states. Vieira claims Hudgens and her father, Greg, sued to get out of the agreement, but have also failed to abide by settlement terms.

An e-mail message seeking comment from Hudgens' publicist wasn't immediately returned Tuesday morning.

Vieira is described in the lawsuit as a songwriter and music producer who was "engaged in the business of discovering and developing artists in the music industry" when he entered into an agreement with Hudgens in 2005.

That agreement, Vieira states, called for him to equally share in advances, royalties and merchandising from Hudgens' career.

That was before she landed a starring role in "High School Musical," which is scheduled to release its third installment later this year. She has also released a pair of solo albums.

Vieira claims an audit turned up at least two instances where he is owed money, and that Hudgens, 19, has refused to pay him.

He is also suing Greg Hudgens for defamation, claiming he sent an e-mail to others that accused Vieira of being a "predator."

Hudgens was sued last year by a lawyer who claimed she owed him $150,000. Court records show the lawsuit was settled in January, about a month after a judge ruled that case could go to trial.

CNN adds reporters in 10 cities to expand coverage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CNN said Tuesday it's adding journalists in 10 cities from Philadelphia to Seattle to provide broader, more nimble TV and online coverage of news nationwide.

The move comes as newspapers and other media companies are forced into cutbacks and layoffs because of sweeping changes triggered by the growth of the Internet and because of the slumping U.S. economy.

Each city will get one person who can provide "grassroots level" coverage of breaking news and other local stories, said Nancy Lane, senior vice president of newsgathering for CNN/U.S.

The mix of traditional general assignment reporters and "all-platform journalists" may be based at affiliate stations, colleges or even at home, Lane said, with the best available technology to file film and photo reports via laptop computers and PDAs.

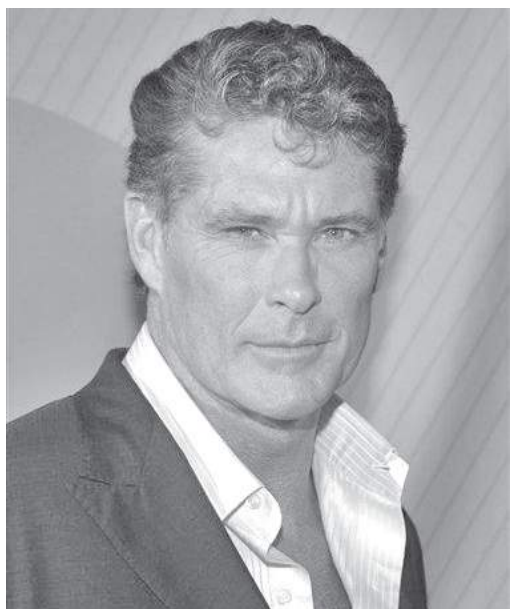
Some of the new jobs may be filled by correspondents now with CNN's daytime and primetime programs, the network said.

Besides Philadelphia and Seattle, the journalists will be located in Columbus, Ohio; Denver; Houston; Las Vegas; Orlando, Fla.; Phoenix; Raleigh-Durham, N.C., and Minneapolis, Minn., where the approach was tested and is in operation.

CNN, owned by Time Warner Inc., has bureaus in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

With air travel increasingly complicated and time-consuming, CNN wanted a way to respond more quickly to breaking news everywhere, Lane said.

The expansion represents a "sizable commitment in dollars," Lane said, declining to provide specifics. Hiring is under way, and the timetable is to get the new positions filled by the end of March 2009.



AP

In this July 17, 2007 file photo, actor David Hasselhoff attends the NBC All-Star Party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Judge settles house dispute in David Hasselfhoff divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Hoff's house is for sale, but not for the price he preferred. Los Angeles Superior Court judge settled a dispute between David Hasselhoff and ex-wife Pamela Bach, putting their house on the market for $5.95 million.

Hasselhoff wanted it listed at less than $5 million; Bach thought it was worth nearly $8 million. The 10,000 square-foot spread, including two guest houses, sits on an acre and a half in Encino.

Judge Robert A. Schnider issued his ruling last week, but it was publicly released on Tuesday. Hasselhoff and Bach divorced in 2006 after 16 years of marriage.

Bach had also been seeking vacate her settlement with the former "Baywatch" star, arguing that he improperly allocated $1 million. Schnider dismissed that claim.

Paris Hilton sued over lack of publicity for film

MIAMI (AP)—Paris Hilton didn't do enough pledging for a 2006 sorority comedy, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday.

Worldwide Entertainment Group Inc. filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Miami, alleging the 27-year-old model-actress-heiress owes $75,000 in damages for not fulfilling promotional obligations.

Hilton entered into an agreement in 2004 for the production and distribution of the movie "National Lampoon's Pledge This!," according to the lawsuit. Hilton starred in the film and received credit as an executive producer.

The Miami-based concern said it paid Hilton and her company, Paris Hilton Entertainment Inc., $1 million for "Hilton's acting services" and for "reasonable promotion and publicity" for the movie, which was released in 2006 and featured Hilton as the president of an exclusive sorority.

AP

U.S. celebrity heiress Paris Hilton visited Copenhagen International Fashion Fair in Copenhagen, Denmark on Thursday Aug. 7, 2008.

While most famous for her tabloid exploits and reality TV series "The Simple Life," Hilton has appeared in the films "Bottoms Up," "The Hottie & the Nottie" and "House of Wax."

She's slated to next appear in the movie musical "Repo! The Genetic Opera" and the tentatively titled MTV reality series "Paris Hilton's My New BFF."

Phone calls and e-mails to Hilton's manager, Jason Moore, were not immediately returned Tuesday.

AP

This undated photo, originally supplied by Andrea Patrick Forte, Fabian Forte is shown.

Fabian to be honored by Jimmy Stewart museum

INDIANA, Pa. (AP)—Fabian Forte will be honored by the museum dedicated to actor Jimmy Stewart.

The 65-year-old singer-actor will receive the 2008 Harvey Award on Oct. 24 from the James M. Stewart Museum Foundation. The museum is in Stewart's hometown, Indiana, Pa., about 45 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

Fabian was a teen idol in the late 1950s and early '60s who appeared in more than 30 films, including two with Stewart, "Dear Brigitte" (1965) and "Mr. Hobbs Takes A Vacation" (1962).

Past Harvey Award winners include June Allyson, Janet Leigh, Shirley Jones, Ernest Borgnine and impressionist Rich Little. The foundation's award is named for the 1950 film in which Stewart befriends an invisible rabbit.

'Indy' heads to video on Oct. 14

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Indiana Jones entered the atomic age in his latest movie. Now he's joining the Blu-ray era.

The blockbuster "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" arrives on DVD and Blu-ray high-definition disc Oct. 14, distributor Paramount announced Tuesday.

The first "Indiana Jones" flick in 19 years, "Crystal Skull" reunited Harrison Ford in the title role with director Steven Spielberg and executive producer George Lucas, who collaborated on the franchise's three previous installments.

The film moved the archaeologist-adventurer from the 1930s of his earlier exploits into the nuclear age of the 1950s.

"Crystal Skull" will be available on a single-disc DVD with just the film or in two-disc DVD and Blu-ray sets. Extras in the two-disc sets will include a segment on how the new movie evolved over its long development period; a production diary including glimpses of location shoots in New Mexico, Connecticut and Hawaii; and segments on makeup, visual effects and the crystal skulls at the heart of the action.

A DVD boxed set with all four movies also will be available.

Paramount and Lucasfilm have not yet announced when the first three movies will be released on Blu-ray.

"Crystal Skull" has taken in about $770 million worldwide, including $314 domestically.

AP

In this file image released by Paramount Pictures, Harrison Ford is shown in a scene from the film, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

Baby boy born to Mexican actors Luna, Sodi

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican actors Diego Luna and Camila Sodi are first-time parents to a baby boy.

A spokesperson for Canana Films, Luna's production company, confirmed the birth on Tuesday. A publicist for Luna in Los Angeles, where the baby was reportedly born, did not immediately return telephone messages.

Luna and Sodi, who married in February, met while filming "The Night Buffalo," an adaptation of the novel by Guillermo Arriaga ("21 grams" and "Babel").

Luna, 28, has also appeared in "Amores perros", "Frida", "Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights" and "The Terminal". Sodi, 21, has acted in "Ninas mal" and "Deficit," the first movie directed by Mexican star Gael Garcia Bernal, cofounder of Canana Films.

In this April 11, 2008 file photo, Mexican actor Diego Luna gestures during a news conference on the set of the Spanish-Mexican movie entitled "I only want to walk" in Mexico City. AP

Sheriff's department: Hayes likely died of stroke

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Authorities in Memphis say Isaac Hayes apparently died of a stroke. The deep-voiced soul singer died Sunday after he was found unconscious at his Memphis residence.

Sheriff's spokesman Steve Shular said Tuesday that paperwork filed by Hayes' family physician, Dr. David Kraus, lists the cause of death as a stroke.

Shular said no autopsy has been performed. No official determination has been released by the medical examiner's office or filed with the Memphis health department, which issues death certificates.

Family members found Hayes lying on the floor of his home beside a treadmill that was still switched on. Relatives said Hayes was under a doctor's care but did not give specifics.

In this June 9, 2004 file photo, entertainer Isaac Hayes arrives at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America annual President's dinner in New York. AP

Woman who got off her high horse didn't find much to ride

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I wrote you about a year ago regarding my difficulty in finding a single, educated, relationship-minded man. You advised me to lower my high standards and date outside my preconceived notions of who Mr. Right was—someone younger or without a college degree.

I dated several men who matched the description. At best, things were uninteresting. Taking your suggestion to "get off my high horse," I have been involved for six months with a man slightly younger than I, with a high school education and children. He's a good man, a good father, and treats me like a queen. However, we're completely incompatible. Intellectually, we're miles apart.

Much as I care for him, I am breaking up with him. I have returned to school to work on my MBA and would rather be single the rest of my life than live a lie for the sake of love. The one thing I have learned from this experience is a newfound fulfillment in being single.

STILL LOOKING IN NEW ORLEANS

DEAR STILL LOOKING: I wish you luck in your search. Over the years I have met people from all walks of life and developed affection as well as respect for their street smarts. I hoped it would work for you. Sorry my advice didn't turn out the way it was intended, but I'm glad you got something positive out of it anyway.

I'm often asked if I hear back from those whose letters I publish. Curious? Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: You printed my letter July 6. I signed myself "Adrift in Anderson, S.C." I want you to know things have since improved. My husband and I finally talked, and we decided to work things out. I found a better job and we put our house up for sale. He's doing something different now, too. Money is no longer tight and the pressure is off.

The main thing is, we talked to each other and realized we need to focus on what made us want to be together in the first place. I decided to follow your advice and did exactly what you suggested. And I understand what you mean about not being able to "unring the bell."

Thank you for caring and for printing my letter. Hopefully there won't be any other people texting for divorces they don't want! Sign me ...

ANCHORED AGAIN IN S.C.

DEAR ANCHORED: Thank you for the update. I'm pleased to know your situation has improved. Texting may be convenient, but nothing replaces eye contact.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm "Sad Dad in Arizona," whose letter appeared May 2 with feedback from your readers on July 2. My wife has a terminal illness and our 15-year-old son didn't want to attend her funeral when the time came. I'd like to thank you and everyone who took the time to write and offer advice.

I'd like to update you on my situation. My mother died recently and my son did attend her funeral. He was apprehensive at first, but handled it much better than he thought he would and he was glad he went.

My wife and I have been going to the Mayo Clinic, and they have given us some hope. While there's no cure for her, there is a medication that may extend her life at least a few more years. On a side note, she finally located her birth father, who lives in another state. She went to visit him and her newfound family before she starts her treatment, which will make her too sick to travel. The visit went well.

A lot can change in a few months.

FORMERLY SAD DAD

DEAR FORMERLY SAD: I'll say! Your last sentence says it all. I'm sure my readers will be as pleased as I am to know your wife is doing better for now.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HOBBES, QUICK! HOW DO YOU TURN OFF THE WATER ?!?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW ??
I CAN'T PUT THIS PIECE BACK IN WITH ALL THE WATER COMING OUT!
I'LL GET YOUR MOM!
MY MOM!? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?? SHE CAN'T FIND OUT ABOUT THIS!
I'LL BET SHE NOTICES WHEN THE KITCHEN CEILING STARTS TO DRIP.
OPEN THE MEDICINE CABINET! FIND SOME CYANIDE!
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8/14

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

FRANK'S PIZZA? THIS IS JON ARBUCKLE... I'D LIKE TO ORDER MY USUAL
JIM DAVIS 8-14
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
OH
THEIR FORKLIFT'S IN THE SHOP
WE'LL STARVE!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

CLAYTON, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER DAY AND YOU'RE CHOOSING TO SPEND IT INDOORS PLAYING VIDEO GAMES?!
I'M NOT PLAYING, I'M PRACTICING FOR THOSE COLD, DREARY WINTER DAYS AHEAD.
OH... OK.
WAIT A SEC!
8/14
BRIAN BASSET
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

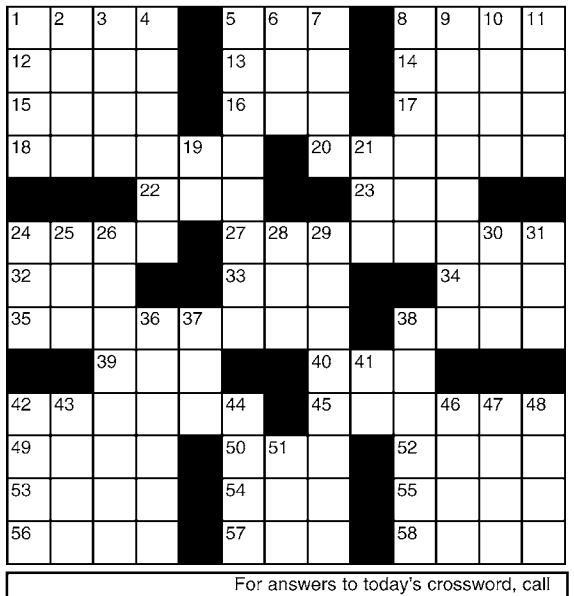
ACROSS
1 Dorsal area
5 Humor
8 Hint
12 Reverberate
13 Commotion
14 Dumbo's "wings"
15 Oklahoma city
16 Playground game
17 Child's play
18 Cookbook entry
20 With tartness
22 Melody
23 "Ariadne — Naxos"
24 Coconut juice
27 Historical building
32 Pitching stat
33 Sch. named for an evangelist
34 Whopper
35 Fred Mertz, e.g.
38 Web journal
39 Conk out
40 Cassowary kin
42 Old-fashioned bladed weapon
45 Ambrosia eater's quaff
49 Settled down
50 Larry's pal
52 Hardy cabbage
53 Prime-time hour
54 Fool
55 Garage task
56 No stay-at-home
57 "Mayday!"
58 Listending abbr.

DOWN
1 Brewery output
2 Zits
3 Stylish
4 Alaskan island
5 Napoleon's downfall
6 McKinley's first lady
7 Frat-party garb
8 Atomic clock element
9 Disembarkation site
10 Caspian Sea feeder
11 Catch sight of
19 Circle ratio
21 Scoundrel
24 Torme or Tillis
25 Savings-plan acronym
26 Cellphone alternative
28 Schedule abbr.
29 Full exposure
30 "Flying Down to —"
31 St. Bernard's burden
36 Jenny Craig patron
37 Meadow
38 Belt fastener
41 Yours truly
42 Hunger throe
43 Medley
44 Present time?
46 Tense
47 Actress Jessica
48 Rod partner
51 Barcelona bear

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	E	R	R	■	E	E	L	■	S	T	A	B
A	L	I	E	■	W	R	Y	■	W	A	G	E
C	A	P	E	F	E	A	R	■	O	P	E	N
K	N	A	V	E	■	■	E	G	R	E	S	S
■	■	■	E	Z	R	A	■	O	D	D	■	■
B	O	S	S	■	A	X	L	E	■	E	B	B
A	B	C	■	P	R	I	O	R	■	C	O	O
S	I	R	■	A	E	O	N	■	S	K	A	T
■	■	A	C	T	■	M	E	A	N	■	■	■
O	P	P	O	S	E	■	■	L	E	A	D	A
S	E	E	D	■	G	R	A	P	E	J	A	M
L	O	B	E	■	G	U	T	■	Z	A	N	E
O	N	Y	X	■	S	E	E	■	E	X	E	S

Yesterday's answer 8-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mila Kunis, 25; Halle Berry, 42; Susan Olsen, 47; Steve Martin, 63

Happy Birthday: Don't put too much pressure on yourself. Do what you can and do it well. Perfection and control will go hand-in-hand. Make a move regarding investments, geographical location or your circle of friends. This is a year to clean up your act and get moving in a direction of substance and longevity. Your numbers are 10, 13, 26, 28, 36, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Fast action and a conservative spin will provide a move into a lead position. Combine entertainment and networking. Volunteering your services with a new group will help you personally and professionally. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): With everything you've got going for you, now is not the time to let your emotions stifle a deal or an important relationship. Love and romance are in the stars. A change in attitude is likely to occur. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Problems with loved ones will fester if you take a trip together or work closely with others. You will find out something interesting about someone from your past. Listen but refrain from making a comment that may get spread around. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't resist the direction you are being pulled toward. It's important to experience people, places and things if you want to make improvements. An old partner or friend will want to reestablish a position in your life. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Connect with people who have experience and can offer you good advice. Your interaction with peers and colleagues may lead to an intimate relationship with someone who shares common interests. Don't be dishonest about your intentions. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Changes made now will be to your benefit. Getting out and involved in groups with hobbies or activities that you enjoy will lead to good professional and personal connections. A new friendship or partnership will develop quickly. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Listen to the voice of reason. Someone you look up to will have an interesting spin on your personal situation. A creative approach to entertainment, dealing with children and friends or a project will provide the touch required to be successful. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Talks will promote business or help you finish a deal that's been lingering. A pleasure trip that is romantic and relaxing will reestablish a relationship with someone you care deeply about. Make the effort to please. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't get trapped by someone who wants to pick your brain and use your ideas as his or her own. Be more secretive with your plans if you want to fulfill them before someone else. A change in a friendship or partnership may leave you confused. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep your emotions out of financial deals. Love is in the stars and, if you are swift to react to an advance being made, a good future can be established for the two of you. If you are already in a relationship, reinforce your vows. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take action, especially if it has to do with your financial or personal situation. A talk with someone who knows your background could lead to finding your niche. Be open about your needs and you will make progress. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be difficult to deal with if you keep changing your mind. Causing confusion can make others nervous and afraid to get involved in partnerships of any kind. Someone may deprive you of information regarding work if he or she is jealous. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a responsible individual, forever searching for a better quality of life. You are steadfast and strong and leave nothing to chance.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5			3				7
3				4		6		
			2				8	
		2	9					
4	7			1			6	8
					3	4		
	9				5			
		3		7				9
8				9			1	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	8	1	4	2	9	5	3	7
3	4	9	1	5	7	6	2	8
7	5	2	8	3	6	4	9	1
8	9	6	3	1	4	2	7	5
2	3	4	7	9	5	8	1	6
5	1	7	2	6	8	9	4	3
4	2	3	6	8	1	7	5	9
1	6	5	9	7	2	3	8	4
9	7	8	5	4	3	1	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

VOICE-ACTIVATED NAVIGATION **Solution: 6 letters**

A	D	S	G	N	I	K	C	A	R	T	I	N	U	E
D	E	T	U	O	R	H	F	T	R	A	F	F	I	C
J	V	R	U	O	T	L	I	P	A	T	T	E	R	N
U	I	I	W	A	I	M	S	O	F	T	W	A	R	E
S	C	T	P	G	S	P	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	I
T	E	C	H	N	O	L	O	G	Y	C	R	A	E	N
N	S	T	A	K	E	U	M	R	I	O	T	V	C	E
E	E	R	E	D	R	A	A	N	A	L	I	A	G	V
M	T	N	O	S	R	L	O	D	A	R	R	W	R	N
P	A	M	E	G	U	R	A	S	D	S	N	E	O	O
I	R	(D)	O	B	T	A	E	T	Y	R	L	I	S	C
U	E	R	(A)	C	K	L	A	T	I	S	E	V	N	S
Q	P	C	E	(T)	R	I	P	S	L	G	T	S	E	P
E	O	L	O	C	(A)	T	I	O	N	I	I	E	S	A
V	E	H	I	C	L	E	G	U	A	G	F	D	M	M

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Yesterday's Answer: Telephone

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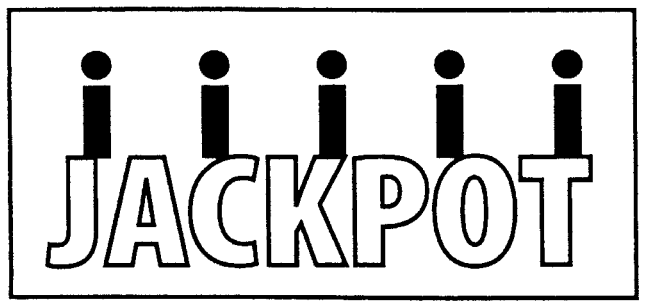

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Wade leads Team USA past Angola

BEIJING (AP)—LeBron James simply knocked aside overmatched Angola players like a schoolyard bully, going wherever he wanted on the basketball court.

Now come the teams that can push back.

Dwyane Wade scored 19 points, James dominated the game with his size and strength on both ends, and the U.S. men's Olympic team wrapped up the easy portion of its schedule with a 97-76 victory Tuesday night.

The Americans (2-0) Thursday face Greece, the team that stunned them two years ago in the semifinals of the world championship. The Greeks are physical, and they should provide the first test of these games for the United States.

"I'm expecting this game right here to be tough," U.S. forward Carmelo Anthony said. "They know that we're coming back to redeem ourselves and I'm pretty sure that they watch us a lot."

Dwight Howard added 14 points and James finished with 12 for the Americans, who had another rough night from 3-point range but don't appear to be stoppable in the open court. Wade was perfect from the field in Beijing until missing in the third quarter.

AP

USA forward Lebron James, right, shoots over Angola's center Joaqim Gomes during their men's preliminary basketball game at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008. USA won 97-76.

Though Anthony said the Greece game "has been circled on my calendar for about two years now," James said it wasn't hard to concentrate on Angola.

"We've got veterans, we're preparing ourselves, every night we're showcasing what we've been doing the last three years getting ready for this moment," he said. "So we can't afford to go out and be lackadaisical."

The United States improved to 4-0 against Angola, starting with the Dream Team's Olympic debut in 1992. That romp is best remembered for Charles Barkley's elbow to an unsuspecting Angolan player in a 116-48 victory.

Carlos Morais scored 24 points for 0-2 Angola, which went down almost as easily this time around. The final margin was much closer thanks to some U.S. concentration lapses in the second half.

"We were not looking ahead. I thought we played with really good energy in spurts and played some really terrific basketball," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "Our goal wasn't to win by a certain margin. It was to really work hard and keep up our pressure and then once that was done, we just worked on a few other things. The main thing was just to keep some consistency, so overall I was very pleased with tonight."

After the Greece game Thursday, the Americans face world champion Spain, who are also 2-0 after rallying to beat China in overtime behind 29 points from Pau Gasol.

Long before this rout started, the Americans were already looking ahead.

Krzyzewski and his staff were seated behind the baseline about 51/2 hours earlier for a look at the Greeks, who shut down Germany over the final three quarters while pulling away for an 87-64 victory.

Greece stunned the United States 101-95 two years ago in the semifinals of the world championship in Japan. This U.S. team is deeper, and James is a whole lot stronger.

James hadn't done much offensively midway through the second quarter when he made his presence felt on the other end, jumping so high to block Felizardo Ambrosio's shot that it looked more like a volleyball spike, with James glaring back at the fallen Ambrosio as the ball went out of bounds.

The Angolans were down only seven with less than 4 minutes remaining in the half when James simply muscled them out of the way. After Wade's 3-pointer, James went all the way for a layup, then knocked Leonel Paulo backward to grab a loose ball and convert a three-point play that made it 47-32 with 2:26 left.

James then came up with a steal and flipped the ball behind him to Chris Bosh for a bucket, then capped a 16-2 spurt with another layup that extended the U.S. lead to 55-34. The Americans were up 55-37 at the break, with James, Howard, Wade, Carmelo Anthony and Bosh all perfect from the field.

The U.S. shooting would have been much better if not for Bryant's 0-for-5 half, but he quickly got involved in the third quarter with eight points, highlighted by a spinning, 360-degree dunk on the fast break.

The Americans lost some concentration on the defensive end, allowing Angola enough open looks to keep it from becoming too much of a blowout for a while. Eventually they pulled away to win almost as easily as they did in a 101-70 victory against China on opening night.

Anthony also scored 12 points for the United States. Every U.S. player but Jason Kidd scored, but the Americans were only 5-of-21 from behind the arc after they hit just 7-of-24 against the Chinese.

"It's been a struggle," Bryant said. "I think we have to adjust to being spot-up shooters, all of us. We're not acclimated to being spot-up shooters, so that's something we have to tweak a little bit and get used to."

Giants' Burress takes field in pads for first time

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Super Bowl star Plaxico Burress took the field in pads Tuesday night for the first time since the New York Giants opened training camp late last month.

Burress, who has been bothered by a troublesome right ankle, jogged a few pass routes during individual drills and lined up with the starters as they walked through a couple of plays in the evening workout. He did not run any patterns full speed, but he did catch a couple of passes from Eli Manning.

"It's like riding a bicycle—it's like I never left," Burress said.

Burress did not participate in either 7-on-7 or 11-on-11 drills. Both are run at full speed. He took his helmet off during those drills, put on a visor and watched roughly the final hour of practice.

"I just wanted to go out and gauge how I feel," Burress said. "I felt OK. I just got some new stuff (orthotics) in my shoes and this is the first day I ran in them. My feet are a little sore right now, so it's something I have to get used to. Once I get used to it and get the soreness out, I'll be back out here."

The Giants will take Wednesday off. Burress hopes to practice on Thursday.

Burress led the Giants in receptions last season, including the game-winning catch in the Super Bowl win over New England. He caught a career-high 12 touchdown passes.

Burress' right ankle is the same one that prevented him from practicing almost all of last season, but this injury is different. The team is trying to fix the problem with the orthotics.

Burress had said on Sunday that he would not practice until the ankle was 100 percent. While he was on the field on Tuesday night, it was evident that he could not go full speed.

"I talked with him before practice," Drew Rosenhaus, Burress' agent, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "He felt better and decided to do a few things."

The ankle is not the only issue for Burress, who turned 31 on Tuesday. He refused to participate in team minicamp in June because the Giants refused to renegotiate his contract. He has three years left on a deal that will pay him $3.25 million this season.

Some had speculated that Burress was not going to practice until he got a new deal.

"There is no correlation between Plax's negotiations and practicing," Rosenhaus said Tuesday.

Giants general manager Jerry Reese said this week that the team wants to get Burress a new deal before the season starts.

After practice ended, Burress walked to the sideline, picked up his son and walked back to a group of receivers as they

Less tailgaiting time for Giants, Jets fans

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The Meadowlands Sports Complex has issued new rules regarding alcohol and fan behavior.

Tailgate parties can only start five hours before New York Giants and Jets games instead of seven. Also, season ticketholders who are ejected from the stadium or arena will have their tickets revoked.

Last season, security at Gate D was increased at Jets games because hundreds of men would gather at halftime and demand that women expose their breasts. View-blocking banners will be hung on the spiral staircase to help eliminate the problem.

Unchanged is the halftime cutoff for alcohol sales.

The moves were announced Tuesday by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

Oden 'feeling good' after workout

TUALATIN, Ore. (AP)—Greg Oden can still dunk.

That much was clear Tuesday when the top pick in last year's NBA draft worked out in front of the media for the first time since right knee surgery wiped out his rookie season with the Portland Trail Blazers.

The 7-footer from Ohio State showed no signs of problems in two-on-two work with teammates Steve Blake and Channing Frye and former Arkansas star Steven Hill, a 7-footer invited to practice with Portland. Oden isn't allowed to go five-on-five until next month.

"I'm feeling good," Oden said. "I do not have any pain or soreness in my knee."

Asked whether he noticed Oden favoring his right knee, Frye dismissed it entirely.

"He favors dunking on your head, that's what he favors," Frye said after giving up his share to Oden in the workout.

Blazers fans fired up about Oden's arrival were stunned last year to learn that he needed microfracture surgery to stimulate cartilage growth by drilling tiny holes in the bone. Oden now says his right knee actually feels stronger than his left because of rehabilitation and conditioning.

The challenge at this point, he says, is mostly psychological, to stop worrying about the knee and to fulfill high expectations he knows fans have for the him and the team.

Oden is the first to admit he must start from scratch with his interrupted career.

"I'm still a rookie," he said. "I know I've got to keep that in mind and try not to let all the pressure overwhelm me."

Frye was supportive but mindful of Oden's own admission that he still lacks experience.

"For me, I don't know if this is the right thing to say, but he's yet to play in an NBA practice, he's yet to play in an NBA game, so I think the expectations are more on him personally than it is on everybody else," Frye said. "We know how good he can be, but he is still a rookie."

Frye offered the reminder that Portland also features All-Star Brandon Roy and LaMarcus Aldridge, who was named to the squad that prepared the U.S. men's national team for the Olympics.

Even without Oden last season, the Blazers were 41-41, nine games better than their 2006-07 record.

"I think a lot of people forgot how good we could have been last year," Frye said. "A lot of people say this is Greg's team. I think we're a great team and Greg is just a great addition.**AL-**

BANY, N.Y. (AP)—Super Bowl star Plaxico Burress took the field in pads Tuesday night for the first time since the New York Giants opened training camp late last month.

Burress, who has been bothered by a troublesome right ankle, jogged a few pass routes during individual drills and lined up with the starters as they walked through a couple of plays in the evening workout. He did not run any patterns full speed, but he did catch a couple of passes from Eli Manning.

"It's like riding a bicycle—it's like I never left," Burress said.

Burress did not participate in either 7-on-7 or 11-on-11 drills. Both are run at full speed. He took his helmet off during those drills, put on a visor and watched roughly the final hour of practice.

Red Sox win slugfest with Rangers

BOSTON (AP)—In one of the wildest games of the season, Kevin Youkilis' go-ahead homer sent the host Boston Red Sox to a 19-17 win after the Texas Rangers fought back from a 10-run first inning Tuesday night that included a pair of three-run homers by David Ortiz.

Youkilis drove a three-run shot over the Green Monster in the eighth inning, bringing fans to their feet as he circled the bases with uncharacteristic speed.

In the first inning, Boston had seven hits and scored all 10 runs off Scott Feldman. Ortiz hit his 15th homer of the year after J.D. Drew walked to lead off and Dustin Pedroia followed with a single. Ortiz hit his 16th with two outs, after RBI singles by Drew and Pedroia. The inning ended when Youkilis struck out for the second time.

Ortiz nearly homered again in the fifth after Texas had cut the lead to 12-10, but second base umpire Scott Barry ruled that a fan had reached over the centerfield fence and touched the ball. Ortiz ended up with a double, but Youkilis hit his 21st homer on the next at bat to put Boston up 14-10.

Angels 7, Mariners 3

At Anaheil, Vladimir Guerrero, Garret Anderson and Juan Rivera homered to help Los Angeles rally for a victory over Seattle.

Jon Garland (11-7) allowed nine hits and three runs in seven innings for the Angels, who have won five straight and improved to 6-1 on their eight-game homestand. Francisco Rodriguez came in with runners on first and second and struck out Raul Ibanez for his major league-best 46th save.

Athletics 2, Rays 1

At Oakland, Bobby Crosby hit a two-run home run and Gio Gonzalez got his first major league win, helping Oakland beat Tampa Bay Tuesday night.

Gonzalez pitched out of a couple of jams in five-plus innings in his second career start and the A's won for the second time in their last 14 games to briefly derail the AL East-leading Rays.

Jerry Blevins and Joey Devine combined to pitch three scoreless and Brad Ziegler got the final three outs for his second save in as many chances, running his scoreless streak to 38 innings.

White Sox 9, Royals 0

At Chicago, Javier Vazquez threw eight scoreless inning and Jermaine Dye hit a two-run homer to lead host Chicago over Kansas City.

Vazquez (9-10) matched his season-high with 10 strikeouts, gave up five hits and walked one to win for the second time in nine starts.

Adam Russell completed the White Sox's first shutout since beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 2-0 on June 26.

Brian Bannister (7-11) lost his fifth straight decision. He gave up four hits, three home runs.

Dye's 28th homer, a two-run shot, came in the first inning. Nick Swisher added his 17th homer in the fifth, and A.J. Pierzynski hit his 10th in the sixth.

Indians 7, Orioles 5

At Cleveland, Asdrubal Cabrera hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning and host Cleveland beat Baltimore for its fifth straight win.

Cabrera had three of Cleveland's 12 hits and scored two runs as the Indians matched their season-best winning streak. Cabrera also doubled in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning of Cleveland's 13-8 victory over the Orioles on Monday.

Rafael Perez (2-2) struck out two in 1-2/3 innings and Jensen Lewis pitched a perfect ninth for his second career save.

The Orioles have allowed 35 runs—33 earned—in the last three games. Baltimore pitchers have given up 45 hits, 10 walks, six homers, hit three batters and tossed six wild pitches.

Garrett Olson allowed five runs—four earned—and nine hits over six innings in his first start against Cleveland.

Olson surrendered two-out RBI singles to Jhonny Peralta, Ryan Garko, Franklin Gutierrez and Marte as the Indians went ahead 4-2 in the first.

Blue Jays 6, Tigers 4

At Detroit, Vernon Wells' two-out, two-run double capped a four-run seventh inning to lift Toronto to a come-from-behind win over host Detroit.

Adam Lind had three hits, including a home run. He drove in two runs for Toronto, which has won two straight over Detroit to move two games above .500.

Gary Sheffield hit two home runs and Magglio Ordonez also homered for Detroit. The Tigers have lost nine of their last 12 games.

After the Tigers went ahead 4-1 with three in the sixth, the Blue Jays did their damage off relievers Bobby Seay and Joel Zumaya in the seventh.

Seay relieved starter Zach Miner and allowed a single to Lind and a double to John McDonald sandwiched around a strikeout. Joe Inglett brought in a run with a groundout. Zumaya came in and allowed Marco Scutaro's RBI single to make it 4-3. After a walk to Alex Rios, Wells lined a pitch into the left-center gap to bring in Scutaro and Rios and give Toronto the lead.

Lind singled in a run in the ninth.

AP

Boston Red Sox's Kevin Youkilis, center, celebrates his three-run home run that drove in Dustin Pedroia, left, and David Ortiz, right, in the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008, in Boston.

Yankees 9, Twins 6 (12 innings)

At Minneapolis, Alex Rodriguez hit a tiebreaking homer in the 12th inning and Xavier Nady added a two-run shot as New York overcame Mariano Rivera's first blown save of the season.

Mets 4, Nationals 3

At Washington, The New York Mets snapped an eighth-inning tie when Damion Easley was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and went on to beat the Washington Nationals.

Easley was hit by Saul Rivera (3-5) to make it 4-3, and a beleaguered bullpen that has struggled badly without injured closer Billy Wagner held the lead.

Six times this season the bullpen has cost Johan Santana (10-7) a potential win—with five of the collapses coming in the ninth inning. Santana went seven solid innings, allowing three runs and eight hits.

Reds 5, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, Edinson Volquez pitched into the seventh inning to snap a post All-Star break slump for Cincinnati.

Brandon Phillips and Javier Valentin homered to help the Reds end a season-worst six-game losing streak. Corey Patterson had two hits and two RBIs.

Volquez (14-5) allowed one run and five hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Jeff Karstens (2-1) took his first loss since being acquired from the Yankees.

Astros 12, Giants 4

At Houston, Lance Berkman hit a grand slam in an eight-run seventh for Houston, two innings after San Francisco ace pitcher Tim Lincecum left the game with an injured knee.

The win was the sixth straight for the Astros.

Lincecum allowed one hit and struck out seven before he was hit in the right knee by Brad Ausmus' line drive in the fifth. The Giants' ace limped off the field and went for X-rays which Giants manager Bruce Bochy said were negative. He said Lincecum would be re-evaluated Wednesday.

Berkman's 24th homer of the season was his fourth career regular-season grand slam. Berkman has homered in two of his last three games after going 33 games without one.

Randy Winn drove in two runs and Aaron Rowand hit a solo homer in the ninth for the Giants.

Marlins 4, Cardinals 3

At Miami, Hanley Ramirez hit a three-run homer and Florida held St. Louis scoreless over the last eight innings.

Chris Volstad (4-2) pitched five innings for the win in his sixth major league start. He gave up five hits and three walks.

Four Florida relievers combined for four shutout innings after a rain delay of 1 hour, 53 minutes in the bottom of the fifth. Kevin Gregg pitched a perfect ninth for his 26th save.

Kyle Lohse (13-5) gave up four runs and six hits, losing for the third time in four decisions.

Diamondbacks 4, Rockies 2

At Denver, Randy Johnson pitched six solid innings and singled in a run and Adam Dunn had a double in his Arizona debut.

Dunn went 1-for-3 with two walks and Chad Tracy homered for Arizona, which has won two straight after a four-game skid. The Diamondbacks acquired Dunn from Cincinnati on Monday for a minor leaguer and two players to be named.

Chris Iannetta homered and Clint Barmes had two hits for the Rockies, who have lost three straight and five of six.

Johnson (10-8) allowed two runs and five hits, struck out seven and walked one to earn his sixth win in his last seven starts. Brandon Lyon pitched the ninth for his 25th save.

Dodgers 4, Phillies 3

At Los Angeles, Andre Ethier singled home the winning run with one out in the bottom of ninth as Los Angeles edged Philadelphia.

Casey Blake had two RBIs for the Dodgers, including a sacrifice fly that tied it in the eighth.

Phillies reliever J.C. Romero (4-4) began the ninth by hitting Russell Martin with a pitch. Martin went to second on a groundout and scored when Ethier lined a 1-2 pitch into the outfield.

Kuo Hong-chih (4-2) pitched two hitless innings for the win.

Chase Utley opened the scoring in the first with his 30th homer. Utley has five homers in his last 14 games after hitting just four in his previous 44.

Brewers 5, Padres 2

At San Diego, Prince Fielder hit a three-run homer and Jeff Suppan pitched eight strong innings to lead Milwaukee past San Diego for its seventh straight victory.

Fielder hit his 27th home run to break a 1-1 tie in the fourth inning.

Suppan (8-7) gave up four hits and two runs to win his third straight start.

Fielder hit the first pitch from Baek Cha-seung (4-6) an estimated 399 feet down the right-field line. Baek had issued a leadoff walk to J.J. Hardy and gave up a single to Gabe Kapler.

Suppan allowed a solo homer to Kevin Kouzmanoff in the second and Jody Gerut's leadoff home run in the sixth. Kouzmanoff's homer was his 18th, tying his rookie total from last year.

Milwaukee's Mike Cameron hit his 19th homer leading off the third to tie the game at 1-1.

Boston gets Paul Byrd from Indians

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Red Sox acquired pitcher Paul Byrd from Cleveland on Tuesday, hoping to boost a rotation hurt by an injury to Tim Wakefield and the struggles of Clay Buchholz.

The Red Sox will send either a player to be named or cash to the Indians.

The 37-year-old Byrd is 7-10 with a 4.53 ERA this season. But he has won all four of his starts since the All-Star break with a 1.24 ERA.

"It's been a roller-coaster ride but as far as me right now, I'm extremely confident," Byrd said in a conference call.

Boston began play Tuesday in second place in the AL East, four games behind Tampa Bay. The Red Sox were two games ahead of the Chicago White Sox in the wild-card race.

"You play for pressure. You play to have all the games count," Byrd said in Cleveland. "Ever since I was a little boy, I wanted to be in the World Series. That hasn't happened to me yet. When I go to Boston, I feel like there's a legitimate chance for that to happen this year."

Earlier, he packed up in the Indians clubhouse where they were preparing for their home game against Baltimore.

"Give me a few minutes before I talk," Byrd said. "I'm not lucid right now. I'm saying funny things. Give me a half-hour and I'll talk."

Later, he expressed surprise but said he was excited to join the Red Sox.

"I was shocked because I figured after I cleared waivers a couple weeks ago nobody wanted me," Byrd said. "It's going to take some adjustments. I was throwing my blue Indians socks in a box and a guy said, 'They wear red socks over there.'

"I just said, 'Oh, yeah, I forgot.'"

Byrd is scheduled to start Friday night at home against Toronto. He pitched his only complete game of the season last Saturday against the Blue Jays.

Air Nino delivers as Air21 moves ahead 2-1

MANILA, Philippines—Air21 has already shown it has enough weapons in its arsenal to match those of Barangay Ginebra.

Now here comes Nino "KG" Canaleta, exploding when least expected to help power the Express to a 97-87 victory over the Kings Sunday and into a 2-1 lead in the Smart PBA Fiesta Conference championship series at the Araneta Coliseum.

Gary David scored a game-high 25 points and Steven Thomas had a 20-20 game, but it was Canaleta coming off the bench to score 12 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter that enabled Air21 to follow up on its 124-90 Game 2 victory.

All the three-time slam dunk champion's final period points came off triples, the last making it an 87-74 game, 5:37 to go.

"I think KG coming off the bench and hitting those threes broke the back of Ginebra," said Express coach Bo Perasol, also noting Thomas' 20 points and 20 rebounds in his matchup against shot-blocking artist Chris Alexander.

"We generated offense when we needed it the most from Thomas and KG," said Perasol. "I always get points from Gary, but the post plays by Steve were confidence-boosters for his teammates. He proved once again he can go one-on-one against Alexander."

Alexander, held to just 10 points and 10 rebounds last Friday, had 14 points, 17 rebounds and 11 shot blocks, making him the first player to have so many swats since Purefoods' Jerry Codinera had the same output in 1989. Toyota's Andy Fields notched a league-most 13 in 1981.

Mark Caguioa and Eric Menk, both starting for the first time in the series, had 21 and 17 points, respectively, and Barangay Ginebra seemed fully in control following a blazing start.

Air21 97 – David 25, Thomas 20, Canaleta 17, Arboleda 12, Santos 10, De Ocampo 9, se 4, Kramer 0, Cruz 0, Intal 0, Sotto 0, Billones 0.

Barangay Ginebra 87 – Caguioa 21, Menk 17, Salvacion 16, Alexander 14, Artadi 8, Valenzuela 7, Pacana 4, Mamaril 0, Reavis 0, Crisano 0.

Quarterscores: 22-30, 46-50, 66-68, 97-87. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

JI HOON

From Page 28

Kamoe was a 6-0, 6-1 victor over Guam's Adrea Lai.

Jones, on the other hand, reached the Final Four of the boys' 13-under after beating Xyril Posala of Samoa, 6-0, 6-2.

His opponent in the semifinals will be New Caledonia's Clement Coarraze, who defeated Jones' teammate Christian Miller in the first round, 6-2, 6-2.

Also battling it out for a semis spot are PNG's Robin Marove and Tahiti's Karl Yomes after they dispatched Devin Khatri of Fiji and Christian Duchnak of American Samoa, respectively.

Marove outlasted Khatri, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, while Yomes had an easier time against Duchnak, winning in a score of 6-1, 6-0.

Befalling a similar fate as Miller is seven-time POJC veteran Mayuko Arriola who came up short in her swan song after losing to Litia Godinet of American Samoa, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

She still has a chance to improve in her sixth-best finish last year after she beat Leilani Duchnak of American Samoa, 6-2, 6-4, in the consolation pool and will face Amanda Korinihona of Solomon Islands for the battle for fifth.

Another CNMI junior netter, Dina Jones, failed to reach the knockout and consolations pools after finishing with a 1-2 record in pool play.

The CNMI junior netters are accompanied in the 2008 POJC tournament by the Commonwealth's longtime national tennis coach Jeff Race, who also used to serve as captain of the Pacific Oceania Davis Cup team. The 2008 POJC will run from Aug. 11 to 15 at the International Tennis Federation's regional training center.

PHELPS

From Page 28

around his neck.

On Wednesday, Phelps swam into history as the winningest Olympic athlete ever with his 10th and 11th career gold medals—and five world records in five events at the Beijing Games.

A day after etching his name alongside Mark Spitz and Carl Lewis with gold No. 9, Phelps set a standard all his own when he won the 200-meter butterfly. An hour later, he swam the leadoff of a runaway victory by the U.S. 800 freestyle relay team, which shattered the old world mark in becoming the first team to break the 7-minute barrier.

Seemingly impervious to fatigue, he set a blistering pace of 1 minute, 43.31 seconds that got the Americans rolling toward a winning time of 6:58.56.

"Come on! Come on!" he screamed at teammates Ryan Lochte, Ricky Berens and Peter Vanderkaay.

The previous record of 7:03.24 was set by the Americans at last year's world championships. Russia took the silver, more than five seconds behind the Americans, who mainly had to make sure they didn't get in the water too soon. Australia won the bronze.

"Safe start! Safe start!" Phelps yelled at Berens before he dove in.

After a six-gold performance at the 2004 Athens Games, Phelps needed only five days in Beijing to surpass Spitz, Lewis, Soviet gymnast Larysa Latynina and Finnish runner Paavo Nurmi as the winningest Olympian ever.

"I'm almost at a loss for words," Phelps said. "Growing up I always wanted to be an Olympian. Now to be the most decorated Olympian of all time, it just sounds weird saying. It started setting in a little bit after the butterfly. I was just trying to focus on my next race, but I just kept thinking, `Wow, greatest Olympian of all time.' It's a pretty cool title. I'm definitely honored."

Phelps has three more chances to stretch his lead before he leaves China. He'll swim in the 200 individual medley, 100 fly and 400 medley relay.

"There is still something left in the tank," Phelps said. "I've got three races left, so there had better be something left in the tank."

In his signature stroke, the butterfly, Phelps was second at the first flip, then pushed it into another gear, his long arms gobbling up huge chunks of water as he literally sailed along atop the surface. He finished in 1:52.03, breaking his mark of 1:52.09 from the 2007 worlds.

Phelps barely smiled as he looked at the board, breathing heavily and hanging on the lane rope. Hungary's Laszlo Cseh really pushed it at the end, but settled for silver in 1:52.70. Japan's Takeshi Matsuda took the bronze in 1:52.97.

Phelps rubbed his eyes and said climbing from the pool, "I can't see anything." A pair of leaky goggles kept him from even seeing the wall as he touched.

"My goggles kept filling up with water during the race," Phelps said. "I wanted 1:51 or better."

Still, he had two more golds and two more records before lunchtime, leaving him just three wins away from beating Spitz's record in the 1972 Munich Games.

"There is nobody in our sport that can win like he wins," U.S. head coach Eddie Reese said. "He is not just winning, he is crunching world records."

British swimmer Simon Burnett provided his theory to Reese when they ran into each other in the cafeteria.

"He was saying to me, 'I think I've figured out Michael Phelps. He is not from another planet; he is from the future. His father made him and made a time machine. Sixty years from now he is an average swimmer, but he has come back here to mop up.'"

Phelps is also keeping pace with Spitz on the record front. Spitz set world standards in all his wins at Munich; Phelps is now 5-for-5 in China.

"I'm pumped about our relay," Phelps said. "It's the most fun thing to be in a team environment and be part of a relay. It's cool when you get four Americans who all swim well together. Everyone has to play their part or it's just not going to happen. We've been lucky that we've been able to do that."

The Americans are sure lucky to have Phelps, who is already recognized as the greatest swimmer ever—sorry, Mark—and plans to keep competing at least through the 2012 London Games.

After another trip to the medals podium, he flipped his flowers to mother Debbie, tears pouring down her face as she proudly watched from a front-row seat with her two daughters.

Everyone wanted to get a look at history, including the U.S. men's basketball team. Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony were among those cheering on Phelps from poolside seats. James posed for pictures with Phelps' mom.

Three worlds records fell before Phelps even walked on deck the first time. By the end of the morning, six new marks were set. It was impossible to win gold without putting up the fastest time in history.

So much for concerns that morning finals would hurt the competition.

In the semifinals of the 100 free, Australia's Eamon Sullivan and France's Alain Bernard played takeaway with the record Sullivan set two days earlier.

In the first heat, Bernard won in 47.20 to knock down Sullivan's mark of 47.24 from the leadoff leg of the memorable 400 free relay. That record lasted all of two minutes. Sullivan won the second heat in 47.05, setting up a thrilling showdown in Thursday's final.

"Records don't mean much," Sullivan said. "They don't win medals at the end of the day, unfortunately. But it gives me confidence that I can swim my own race under pressure."

American Jason Lezak, who chased down Bernard in the relay, advanced to the final with the sixth-best time, 47.98. The other U.S. swimmer, Garrett Weber-Gale, failed to advance.

Then it was Federica Pellegrini's turn in the women's 200 free. The Italian broke the mark she set a day earlier in the semifinals, winning gold in 1:54.82. The old record was 1:55.45.

Sara Isakovic of Slovenia claimed the bronze in 1:54.97, and China's Pang Jiaying thrilled the home fans by passing Katie Hoff on the final lap to take bronze in 1:55.05.

Hoff's disappointing day wasn't done.

In the 200 individual medley, she again finished in the first spot that doesn't give a medal. Australia's Stephanie Rice completed her IM sweep with another world record, her time of 2:08.45 erasing the mark of 2:08.92 set at the Australian trials in March.

Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe took the silver in 2:08.59, also below the previous world record. Natalie Coughlin of the U.S. won the bronze in 2:10.34, her third medal of the games, beating Hoff by 34-hundredths of a second.

"It's a big surprise for me," said Coughlin, who only began swimming the IM a few months ago. "Any medal in an event that is not on your (regular) program is great."

The glamorous Rice, wearing big green earrings that matched her country's colors, added to her victory in the 400 IM.

Then there's Hoff, who looked to be one of the big stories of the game when she qualified in five individual events—the same number as Phelps.

The 19-year-old, who says Phelps is like a big brother, has yet to match his success in the water. In her first two races, Hoff settled for a bronze and a silver, which look pretty good after Wednesday. Now, she's got only one more event—the 800 free—to win an individual gold.

"I went out there and I raced tough and that's all I can do," Hoff said. "It was definitely a tough day, but I think I handled it pretty well."

An inspiring Olympic story came to an end in the semifinals of the 200 breaststroke.

Eric Shanteau, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer just before the U.S. Olympic trials and put off surgery until after the games, failed to advance to the final.

He finished sixth in his semifinal heat and 10th overall, 13-hundredths of a second out of the last spot into the final.

Japan's Kosuke Kitajima, trying for his second straight sweep of the breaststroke events, cruised along as the top qualifier at 2:08.61. He already won the 100 with a world record after taking both golds in Athens four years ago.

RANGERS

From Page 28

Benwachi Taiscan scored Robert Bansil and Tomokane made his fifth RBI of the game when he brought home Sanchez in the top of the seventh.

While Rock Steady made it 10-13 when Omar scored on a Lizama single, Rangers put the game away with two more runs in the bottom of the eighth and reliever Sanchez finished what starting pitcher Mel Sakisat started when he stranded Rock Steady's runners in the eighth and ninth innings.

Tomokane finished 2-for-4 from the plate and added three runs to his five RBIs. Taisacan also was his usual self, going 3-for-4 with a run batted in.

Sakisat took the win after pitching five strong innings and recording two strikeouts. He allowed 11 hits and nine runs and walked three.

Lizama sparkled in the loss for Rock Steady, finishing 4-for-5 with three RBIs. Manny Sablan and San Nicolas both went 3-for-5 from the plate and also accounted for five RBIs.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	71	47	.602	_
Boston	69	51	.575	3
New York	64	56	.533	8
Toronto	61	59	.508	11
Baltimore	56	62	.475	15

Central Division

Chicago	66	52	.559	_
Minnesota	66	53	.555	1/2
Detroit	58	61	.487	8 1/2
Cleveland	54	64	.458	12
Kansas City	54	65	.454	12 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	75	43	.636	_
Texas	61	59	.508	15
Oakland	55	63	.466	20
Seattle	45	74	.378	30 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	64	55	.538	_
New York	63	56	.529	1
Florida	63	57	.525	1 1/2
Atlanta	55	63	.466	8 1/2
Washington	44	76	.367	20 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	71	47	.602	_
Milwaukee	69	51	.575	3
St. Louis	66	56	.541	7
Houston	60	59	.504	11 1/2
Pittsburgh	54	65	.454	17 1/2
Cincinnati	53	67	.442	19

West Division

Arizona	61	58	.513	_
Los Angeles	60	59	.504	1
Colorado	53	68	.438	9
San Francisco	50	68	.424	10 1/2
San Diego	46	73	.387	15

Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 5, Pittsburgh 1
Chicago Cubs at Atlanta, ppd., rain
N.Y. Mets 4, Washington 3
Florida 4, St. Louis 3
Houston 12, San Francisco 4
Arizona 4, Colorado 2
Milwaukee 5, San Diego 2
L.A. Dodgers 4, Philadelphia 3¤
Boston 19, Texas 17
Toronto 6, Detroit 4
Cleveland 7, Baltimore 5
N.Y. Yankees 9, Minnesota 6, 12 innings
Chicago White Sox 9, Kansas City 0
Oakland 2, Tampa Bay 1
L.A. Angels 7, Seattle 3

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Partial Medal Count

USA	10	8	10	28
CHN	17	3	5	25
KOR	5	6	1	12
AUS	4	2	6	12
RUS	2	7	3	12
ITA	4	4	2	10
FRA	0	7	2	9
GER	4	1	2	7
JPN	3	1	3	7
GBR	2	2	3	7

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swaim-led trio tops soccer tournament; Schultz is MVP

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

NMI National coach Nick Swaim teamed up with Meaghan Hassel-Shearer and Claire Brostrom to rule a 3-on-3 soccer tournament held Sunday at the Navy Hill field.

The trio and 12 other teams competed in a single round-robin tournament with each game lasting eight minutes. Participants played on two fields with each field about a quarter of a size of the normal field.

The Swaim-led team won in the finals against the trio of Brenda Schultz, Caleb Arriola, and Jack Thoensaket, 4-3.

Despite her losing effort in the championship game, Schultz's heroics all throughout the tournament were still recognized, as the NMI National Team member was adjudged most valuable player in the one-day event.

The trio of Zoe Jewell, Scott Hayden, and Lar Wonapanya played in the battle for third and prevailed over the team of Archie Rausora, Amber Roberts, and Peter Bonser.

The weekend tournament is a fundraiser for the women's futsal league.

Laura Williams, member of the NMIFA Women's Committee, said funds earned from the entrance fees in the 3-on-3 tournament will be used to purchase equipment for the futsal league.

Williams added that they decided to hold a 3-on-3 tournament instead of a regular one to encourage more participants.

"In a tournament like the 3-on-3, there is a lot of camaraderie and good sportsmanship, it is supposed to be fun. We would like to bring more people out to participate in football either during tournaments or leagues. It is a great sport for the whole family and we have many families that participated together," said Williams, who herself participated in the tournament along with son Caleb Arriola.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Nick Swaim, Jack Thoensaket, and Claire Brostrom during the final game of last weekend's 3-on-3 soccer tournament held at the Navy Hill field.

The 3-on-3 tournament had players with different skill levels and drew participants as young as 14 years old.

"It is very important that everyone is able to participate in football, we encouraged all skill levels. This is the reason teams were chosen at random in such a way that their overall skill was balanced," said Lindsay Davis, chairman of the NMIFA Woman's Committee.

"We all had a lot of fun, 3-on-3 is much faster and more intense even though the games are shorter," said NMI National Team member Becca Newman.

Tournament organizers thanked Tan Holdings Corp., PTI, Palms Resort Saipan, and Pacific Islands Club for supporting the fundraiser. They also acknowledged Whispering Palms School and Division of Parks and Recreation for allowing them to use the soccer facility.

Meanwhile, the women's futsal league will kick off in October.

Futsal is an indoor game with five players in each team.

"It is also referred to as the "great skill developer." It demands quick reflexes, fast thinking, and accurate ball control as it is played on a basketball-style court, with no walls and a low bouncing ball, requiring players to use their skill rather than the ball's bounce to propel it," Williams said.

The league was supposed to open in September, but organizers decided to change the schedule to give participants more time to prepare and avoid playing in a muddy field at this time of the year.

The women's committee will be holding boot camps and registrations next month before the league opens.

SFA honors 'Cap'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Fishermen's Association presented a plaque of recognition to the family of the late Jacinto "Timayong" Ngirangao Taman, acknowledging his contribution to the sport of fishing.

Taman, whose nickname "Timayong" means protector of divine winds and was also known as Uncle Asin and Jason to his family and Cap (captain) in the sports fishing community, died early this year due to cancer after teaching valuable lessons to fellow fishermen in more than three decades.

"Most of Saipan's fishermen learned the ins and outs of fishing from Uncle Asin. He was an all-round fisherman, an expert on boating, trolling, and bait. Everything I learned in fishing, I learned them from Uncle Asin," said former SFA president and now Rep. Diego T. Benavente.

Benavente along with several members and officials of the association awarded the plaque to the family of the late Taman during the 24th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament awards banquet Monday night at the Hyatt Hotel.

"The Cap touched many of us in immeasurable ways. He was a man among men. His infinite wisdom supersedes most humanly passion," the plaque read.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Family members of the late Jacinto "Timayong" Ngirangao Taman show the plaque of appreciation given to the 'Cap" by the Saipan Fishermen's Association at the awards banquet for the 24th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament Monday night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"All of us know his love of the ocean. Although his chiseled face seemed stout and sturdy, beneath that was a tender and gentle person, so full of love and life," Benavente said, reading parts of what were written on the plaque.

"With a heart as large as the ocean, he will be missed by his friends in SFA, but his legacy will live within us," Benavente added.

Before presenting the plaque to Taman's wife, Lyn, and their children, Benavente asked those present at the ceremony to observe a moment of silence in honor of Cap.

Benavente then mentioned Taman's greatness in the field, emphasizing Cap's influence to young fishermen.

"He was our inspiration. He never ceased to teach new fishermen old and effective tricks in fishing," Benavente said.

The lawmaker added Taman held the record for the heaviest wahoo (44 lbs.) caught for 16 years before it was broken, three years ago.

Benavente also acknowledged Taman's enormous patience, citing one tournament in which Cap patiently waited until the third weekend of the competition before catching a yellow fin.

"In one yellow fin derby, no one caught a yellow fin on the first and second day of the tournament. While several fishermen had already given up, the Cap hung in there and on the third weekend caught a yellow fin. It was only a small yellow fin, but it was enough for him to win the Top 3 awards in that category," Benavente said.

Jim, the eldest son of Taman, joined his mother Lyn in receiving the plaque from SFA officials and thanked the association for honoring their father.

Legislature, Autonomous notch contrasting wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Legislature and Autonomous took separate paths en route to nailing victories in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Legislature survived Commonwealth Ports Authority's late rally to eke out an 88-87 win in the first game, while Autonomous had an easier time against Department of Public Works/Procurement & Supply in the second match, cruising to a 109-96 triumph.

The Lawmakers were ahead by nine, 89-80, with less than a minute left in the fourth period, when CPA launched a 7-0 run to cut the lead to two, 87-89.

Bill Camacho connected on a triple and an undergoal stab, while Raymond Sablan had a layup.

CPA could have tied the game or even have taken the lead, but several misses foiled their bid.

Leading by only two with less than 20 seconds remaining in the game, the Legislature decided to push the ball hard toward its frontcourt instead of hanging on to the possession to melt the clock.

CPA went for the steal and succeeded when Jerome Reyes caught Dave Apatang's cross-court pass to Ray Duenas.

Reyes then found an open Camacho under the basket, but the latter muffed the potential game-tying basket. CPA's Burton Wenty grabbed the offensive board, went for another shot, but missed anew.

After Wenty's miss, there was a scramble for the ball and Camacho won, but failed to complete CPA's come-from-behind win when he missed a triple, with only two seconds left in the game.

Ernest Duenas led the Lawmakers' two-point win, firing 33 points, including his team's last six points. Joel Punzalan chipped in 24, while Duenas' father Ray contributed 13.

Legislature led after each quarter, but could not pull away with Jerome Reyes keeping CPA afloat. Reyes had a game-high 37 points.

In the second game, Autonomous drew 20-plus points from three players to whip DPW/P&S.

Ed Diaz topscored for Autonomous with 28 points, while Bob Coldeen and Steve Rasa chipped in 25 and 20, respectively.

Autonomous, which have younger players than DPW, leaned on its speed and inside game to outgun and outrun its much older foes.

Rasa and Ulysses Kapileo muscled their way inside to outpower DPW/P&S's frontline, while Diaz and Coldeen alternately hit outside shots and fastbreak layups.

By the end of the first period, Autonomous was ahead by 11, 33-22.

DPW/P&S never recovered from thereon despite getting 50 points from Edgar Pangelinan, who exploded for 11 3-pointers.

Only two DPW/P&S players scored in double figures for their team with Oscar Masga firing 15 markers.

First Game

Legislature 89 – E. Duenas 33, Punzalan 24, R. Duenas 13, Guerrero 9, Apatang 8, Cabrera 2.

CPA 87 – Reyes 37, Smith 16, Camacho 11, Wenty 11, Sablan 10, Choay 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-17, 35-32, 56-54, 89-87.

Referees: Arnold Mesa/Eric Artillaga.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Autonomous center Tim Wesley goes up for a basket in their Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League game against Department of Public Works/Procurement & Supply Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Second Game

Autonomous 109 – Diaz 28, Coldeen 25, Rasa 20, Kapileo 14, Everly 10, Wesley 6, Aaron 6.

DPW/P&S 96 – E. Pangelinan 50, Masga 15, Iglecias 8, Deleon Guerrero 7, G. Pangelinan 4, J. Pangelinan 3, Tomokane 3.

Scoring by quarters: 33-22, 53-43, 76-63, 109-96.

Referees: Arnold Mesa/Eric Artillaga.

Swaim-led trio tops soccer tournament; Schultz is MVP

NMI National coach Nick Swaim teamed up with Meaghan Hassel-Shearer and Claire Brostrom to rule a 3-on-3 soccer tournament held Sunday at the Navy Hill field.
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wade leads Team USA past Angola

LeBron James simply knocked aside overmatched Angola players like a schoolyard bully, going wherever he wanted on the basketball court. Now come the teams that can push back.
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Ji Hoon reaches finale in Lautoka

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

CNMI wunderkind Ji Hoon Heo reached the finals of the boys' 18-under in the 2008 Oceania Junior Championships yesterday even as Thea Minor and Rafael Jones made it to the quarters of their respective age groups at the Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

Heo, who topped Pool A of his age group, beat Luke Paeni, 6-0, 6-0, in the first round of the knockout and consolation pools to advance to the quarterfinals, where he faced a worthy adversary in the person of Pool C topnotcher Duncan Maetoloa of Solomon Islands.

The two battled it out from the get-go with the 16-year-old Marianas High School getting his most grueling match yet before taking the victory with a 6-4, 6-3 win.

His opponent in the finals of the boys' 18-under is his practice mate and close friend Lorenzo Pineda of Vanuatu.

Pineda, who topped Pool D, advanced to face Heo after beating Ian Honila of Solomon Islands, 6-0, 6-2. He then surprisingly easily took care of business against Pool B top seed William O'Connell of Fiji, 6-1, 6-0, to make it to the championship round.

Minor, for her part, won her first match in the knockout and consolation pools of the girls' 13-under. It was not an easy victory for the 12-year-old Grace Christian Academy student though as Aniva Hunkin of Samoa gave her all sorts of trouble in the first set before prevailing in a score of 7-6 (7-5), 6-0.

She will face Annie Shanon in the semifinals after the Fijian beat River Burich of Samoa, 6-0, 6-0.

The other half of the 13-under pool will have Samuelle Bull of New Caledonia and Tarani Kamoe of Fiji taking on each other. Bull upended Lorish Puluspene, 6-2, 6-2, in the first round, while

See JI HOON on Page 26

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION
Ji Hoon Heo, seen here in a file photo from a recent tournament in New Caledonia, advanced to the finals of the boys' 18-under of the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships after beating his two opponents yesterday in Lautoka, Fiji.

Phelps wins 10th, 11th golds of Olympic career

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—For Michael Phelps, it's not enough to just set a new standard. He has to demolish the old one. Winningest Olympian ever? He's two golds past that already and not finished yet, just over halfway to his goal of breaking Mark Spitz's record seven in a single Olympics.

World records? In a sport measured down to the hundredths for a reason, Phelps sets a pace to crush one of them by more than four seconds.

Even when his goggles malfunctioned during the first race of a golden morning in China, the gangly, 23-year-old American squinted through water-filled lenses on the way to, yes, a world record. Of course, he was none too happy to beat it by only six-hundredths.

So un-Phelps-like.

"In the circumstances, not too bad I guess," he said with a shrug. "I know I can go faster."

No wonder his competitors realize they're merely swimming for second.

Monumental challenges for mere mortals seem almost inconsequential to Phelps.

"He is just a normal person, but maybe from a different planet," said Russia's Alexander Sukhorukov, fresh off a thrashing by the Phelps-led Americans but still good enough to have a silver

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

Rangers shock Rock Steady, take Game 1

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rock Steady's undefeated season is no more thanks to Pete Tomokane's clutch hitting, as the Ford Rangers took Game 1 of their best-of-five championship series in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League, 15-10, Monday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Tomakane gave the Joeten Motors-sponsored team some leg room right from the first inning, as the slugging third baseman hit a home run against Rock Steady ace Jonathan Camacho to give the Rangers a 3-0 lead.

After Rock Steady made two home plate crossings of its own in the bottom of the first, Tomakane again shook Camacho's confidence by hitting a two-run single that touched off the Rangers' six-run, second-inning explosion that staked them to a 9-2 lead.

Rock Steady put a dent on the Rangers' lead as Tyrone Omar, Dane Lizama, and Manny Sablan accounted for three runs batted in to make it 5-9.

Vince Sablan then took over from Camacho at the start of the third and had three quick outs to make the game interesting. Rock Steady tucked in a run in the bottom of the inning to make it a three-run contest, 9-6.

Rangers, however, pelted Sablan with two more hits in the fourth as Jesus Iguel and Robert Bansil crossed home plate,

MARK RABAGO
Mel Sakisat was the winning pitcher in Ford Rangers' 15-10 Game 1 win against Rock Steady at the start of their best-of-five championship series in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League Monday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

respectively, on a sacrifice fly by Sanchez and an error by Rock Steady's Nick San Nicolas to pad their lead to 11-6.

Both camps were quiet in the next two innings before Rock Steady exploded for three runs in the bottom of the sixth, which saw Lizama, Manny Sablan, and San Nicolas score three runners to keep the game close at 11-9.

That was as close as the erstwhile undefeated team would come to the Rangers' lead though as home run king

See RANGERS on Page 26

Tsunami Saipan starts 2008 season

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan started its 2008-2009 season last Aug. 4 with the year-old club dividing its swimmers into three groups—Sensyu, Jyun-Sensyu, and Ikusei.

Head coach Hiro Kimura has high hopes for the club's senior swimmers in the Sensyu course, which is Japanese for real athlete.

"Our target for the senior age swimmers of the Sensyu course is for them to participate in big international competitions representing the CNMI. This season we are looking at taking part in three big meets—Jr. Pan Pacific Championship, Arafura Games, and FINA World Championships," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Kimura said swimmers that are part of Tsunami Saipan's Sensyu course are Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, Shin Kimura, Marystar Welch, and Kensuke Kimura.

"One of our major goals this year for our senior swimmers is for them to break CNMI records as much as they can. A lot of records have not been broken for a long time now," he said.

Just a notch below the senior swimmers are Tsunami Saipan's Jyun-Sensyu, which is a direct Japanese translation to junior top swimmers.

Kimura said, at present, members of the Jyun-Sensyu course are Thea Minor, Kaisei Toda, Ashley and Salofi Welch, and Kaito Yanai.

"The aim of this team is to improve and move up to the top team as soon as possible."

After Jyun-Sensyu swimmers are Tsunami Saipan's youngest group, which is called the Ikusei course.

Kimura said Ikusei means developing in Japanese and currently 14 of his swimmers belong to this course.

"Many of our kids are still off-island for summer vacation. If everyone comes back, it will increase our numbers," he said.

Kimura also added that for the 2008-2009 season, Tsunami Saipan has started a beginners class for swimmers eight years old and younger.

"Tsunami Saipan intends to usher the growth of the islands' new generation of swimmers. We want to make a strong relay team for every age group and each gender. At first, we aim to break CNMI record of the 8-under age group. These are long-standing records that nobody has broken the past 30 years," he said.

For more information about Tsunami Saipan and its courses, call the club's team manager Yuko Kimura at 789-7842.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan divided its swimmers into three groups—Sensyu, Jyun-Sensyu, and Ikusei—for its 2008-2008 season.